

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

December 1987

NORMAN
ROCKWELL'S
AMERICA
P. 25

TWO DOLLARS



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HABAND

THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 123, No. 6

December 1987

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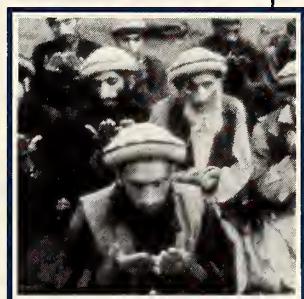
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COVER Checking his list. Rockwell illustration courtesy of Curtis Publishing Co.

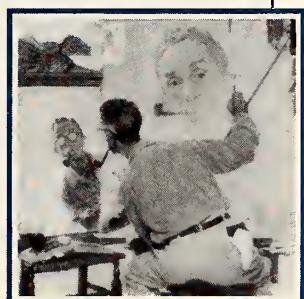
THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.8 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; a strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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25



Roger Whittaker

Sings 24 of America's Best-Loved Ballads

The Most Beautiful Girl

She Believes In Me
 Harbor Lights
 For I Loved You
 Love Me Tender
 Leaving On A Jet Plane
 For The Good Times
 Try To Remember
 Every Time Is Gonna Be
 The Last Time
 Always On My Mind
 Honey
 Gentle On My Mind
 You Needed Me
 The Twelfth Of Never
 The Three Bells
 True Love
 Image To My Mind
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 I'll Be Seeing You
 Funny How Time Slips Away
 Are You Lonesome Tonight
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Editorial Offices

700 North Pennsylvania St.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-635-8411

John P. "Jake" Comer
National Commander

Daniel S. Wheeler
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Michael D. LaBonnie
Editor

Raymond H. Mahon
Managing Editor

Joe Stuterville
Associate Editor

Kathy Simpson
Copy Editor

Simon Smith
Art Director

William L. Poff
Production Manager

Advertising Director

Donald B. Thomson
The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 7068
Indianapolis, IN 46207
317-635-8411

Publisher's Representatives

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Chicago: 312-644-3888
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Atlanta: 404-252-0968

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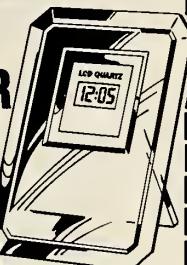


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50 CAPS 179 100 CAPS 269
500 for \$10.59

LETTERS

Contra Support

Your October issue was superb. You make a clear and compelling case for America's support for freedom and democracy in Central America, and by it, do this President, this administration and our country a service.

Thomas F. Gibson
Special Assistant to the President

How dare you disgrace the name of the father of our country by having a quote by George Washington and a picture of a Contra fighter on the cover! The Revolutionary War may have been partially funded by other countries... but the resemblance ends there.

Russell Archerd
Calistoga, Calif.

The alarm has been sounded. The facts have been laid out, and they are incontrovertible. Unless we, the American people, can arouse Congress out of its fat-cat lethargy and political gamesmanship long enough to make an immediately appropriate response to the massive Soviet buildup of the largest war machine in all of Latin America,

the lights of freedom will soon be extinguished — not only in Central America, but also here in the United States.

Lee Hawkins
Redlands, Calif.

The Central American states seem to have a fairly good peace plan going. Let them take care of their own. No more Contra aid — \$270 million could do farmers and veterans here a lot of good.

Byron L. Adams
Glendale, Calif.

Apparently, some readers are unaware of the Monroe Doctrine, under which we are supposed to prevent takeover of small countries in this hemisphere by foreign powers, such as the Soviets.

William S. Gill
Manchester, Conn.

One of the reasons the United States does not have a clear and viable policy in Central America is because a large segment of the public suffers from the "Rambo Syndrome." The symptoms manifest themselves in the fantasy that

Sylvester Stallone is fighting the real war for democracy, and he is winning, with no bloodshed but his own.

Franklin Hall
Hollywood, Calif.

Merchant Marine

I do not share the Legion's opposition to merchant seamen receiving VA benefits (August).

The U.S. government took over merchant ships, and dictated the supplies, routes to take and ports to make. Private companies paid wages equal to those of the Army and Navy. Duties included assignment to gun crews. Conditions were hazardous, and 31 months of such service entitled a seaman to a discharge and exemption from the draft. Believe me, serving 31 months made a seaman a "veteran" in every sense of the word.

Joe Wright
Mesa, Ariz.

The men who attended or graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and subsequently served on U.S. vessels during war did more than "support" the war effort under hazardous conditions. They were assigned to ships that were exposed to hostilities all over the world and were fired upon, yet they did not have a great deal of armor or artillery with which to defend themselves and their war cargoes.

These people were trained by U.S. naval officers at the academy, were assigned to ships — technically naval vessels — and served their country during war. How can they be considered to be less veterans than people who became "veterans" by sitting out the war behind a desk?

N.H. Johnson
Anchorage, Alaska

Constitution

Many periodicals have dedicated special editions to the U.S. Constitution. THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE special issue is superb. All those persons who contributed to the special edition in some manner can be proud of their efforts.

Samuel E. Hayes Jr.
House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Wellspring Of Our Strength



Four priceless rewards of citizenship in a free country were defined by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as essential human freedoms.

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure," he said, "we look forward to a world founded upon four essential freedoms.

"The first is freedom of speech and expression — everywhere in the world.

"The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way — everywhere in the world.

"The third is freedom from want — everywhere in the world.

"The fourth is freedom from fear — everywhere in the world."

Norman Rockwell, better than any artist in the country, captured the essence of these freedoms in four paintings that have become famous throughout the

world. (See page 25.)

As an artist, Rockwell showed rare ability to portray in his work the very heartbeat of America. His poignant touch never failed to evoke strong memories.

Few Americans can look at a Rockwell painting without feeling that familiar lump in the throat and misty eyes as they whisk back to good times long forgotten.

Rockwell's paintings exemplify typical American settings centered on typical American families. "And that's what it's all about," said Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer. "Families are the wellspring of America's strength." (See page 20.)

There is no better time to emphasize our heritage of freedoms — those "pearls of great price in anguish won" — and the unity of family than during the holidays.

To all bluecaps, whitecaps, redcaps and their families who make up this great American Legion family, best wishes during this special holiday season.

The Editors



Christmas 1986



What will happen if you're out of the picture next Christmas?

During the holidays we reflect on the year past and anticipate the new year to come. We relive old memories, gather together with friends and family. We also think about the future. Being realistic, what would happen to your family next Christmas or the Christmas thereafter if something happened to you?

Will there be enough extra to take care of college tuitions, mortgages, car payments and the like?

You can assure your family's future to provide for those times when your loved ones need it most. By joining this American Legion nationally approved Life Insurance Plan today, you can begin to take care of your family's future tomorrow.

Pick your premium, choose your protection for just \$24 per unit annually.

Each unit, and you can now purchase anywhere from 1 to 14 units, is still \$24. The same price we've offered for nearly 30 years. As an example, it offers Legionnaires from 30 through 34 a maximum benefit of \$128,800 for only \$336 annually ($14 \times \$24$). And since 1958, the American Legion Life Insurance Plan has provided millions of much needed benefit dollars through this decreasing term life insurance plan.



May you and your family enjoy the holidays and many more to come. Your American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

Turn page, complete application and mail it now with your premium.

The check above is an example of benefits available to a Legionnaire age 30 through 34.

For other age groups consult the benefit chart on the following page.



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CERTAIN STATES have requirements not satisfied by the enrollment card below. If you reside in one of those states, your enrollment and check will be returned to you to fulfill those requirements. If that is necessary, your enrollment will not be processed until the additional form is returned to us.

ANNUAL PREMIUM TO SEND WITH YOUR ENROLLMENT. The premiums shown above are for the balance of 1988 for approved enrollments effective Jan. 1, 1988. Premiums for enrollments effective Feb. 1 or later are proportionately less, by \$2 PER UNIT PER MONTH, and any overpayments will be refunded. Premiums accompanying non-approved enrollments will be refunded in full.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Your insurance becomes effective on the first day of the month

Join this term Life Insurance Plan TODAY. Get up to 14 Units. 15% Benefit Bonus.

BENEFITS—Yearly Renewable Reducing Term Insurance (Policy Form GPC-5700-781)
Benefits determined by age at death and include 15% SPECIAL INCREASE for deaths occurring during 1988. Maximum coverage limited to 14 units.

Age at Death Annual Premium	14 Units \$336 per yr.	12 Units \$288 per yr.	10 Units \$240 per yr.	8 Units \$192 per yr.	6 Units \$144 per yr.	4 Units \$96 per yr.	2 Units \$48 per yr.	1 Unit \$24 per yr.
Up thru 29	\$161,000	\$138,000	\$115,000	\$92,000	\$69,000	\$46,000	\$23,000	\$11,500
30-34	128,800	110,400	92,000	73,600	55,200	36,800	18,400	9,200
35-44	72,450	62,100	51,750	41,400	31,050	20,700	10,350	5,175
45-54	35,420	30,360	25,300	20,240	15,180	10,120	5,060	2,530
55-59	19,320	16,560	13,800	11,040	8,280	5,520	2,760	1,380
60-64	12,880	11,040	9,200	7,360	5,520	3,680	1,840	920
65-69	8,050	6,900	5,750	4,600	3,450	2,300	1,150	575
70-74*	5,313	4,554	3,795	3,036	2,277	1,518	759	379.50
75-Over*	4,025	3,450	2,875	2,300	1,725	1,150	575	287.50
Annual Premium	\$336	\$288	\$240	\$192	\$144	\$96	\$48	\$24

*No persons age 70 or over (including those desiring additional coverage) will be accepted for new insurance. 13, 11, 9, 7, 5 and 3 units also available. Please write for details.

coinciding with or next following the date your enrollment is received, subject to Insurance Company's approval. Insurance may be maintained in force by payment of premiums when due.

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Plan insured by Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company.

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Last First Middle Mo. Day Year

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Name of Beneficiary _____ Relationship _____
Example: Print "Helen Louise Jones" Not "Mrs. H. L. Jones"

Membership Card No. _____ Year _____ Post No. _____ State _____

I apply for the number of units indicated:

The following representations shall form a basis for the Insurance Company's approval or rejection of this enrollment. Answer all questions.

- Present occupation? _____ Are you now actively working?
Yes No If no, give reason _____
- Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year?
Length of stay and cause _____ No Yes If yes, give date, _____
- During the last five years, have you had heart disease, circulatory disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or cancer, or have you had or received treatment or medication for high blood pressure or alcoholism?
No Yes If yes, give details _____

I represent that to the best of my knowledge, all statements and answers recorded on this enrollment card are true and complete. I agree that this enrollment card shall be a part of any insurance granted upon it under the policy. I authorize any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may attend or examine me, to disclose or to testify to any knowledge thus acquired.

Signature of _____ Dated _____, 19_____ Applicant _____

The American Legion offers this insurance through Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company.
Home Office: Los Angeles, California

GMA-300-19 12-79

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

I have received and read the Notice of Disclosure of Information at right. Further, I authorize any physician, medical practitioner, hospital, clinic, or other medical or medically related facility, insurance company, the Medical Information Bureau or other organization, institution or person having any records or knowledge of me or of my health to give Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company any such information.

A photographic copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

Dated _____, 19_____ Signature of Applicant _____

I apply for additional Legion Life Insurance. My present certificate number is _____

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Information regarding your insurability will be treated as confidential except that Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Co. may make a brief report to the Medical Information Bureau (M.I.B.) a non-profit membership organization of life insurance companies which operates an information exchange on behalf of its members. Upon request by another member insurance company to which you have applied for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted, the M.I.B. will supply such company with the information it may have in its files.

The Company may also release information in its file to its reinsurers and to other life insurance companies to which you may apply for life or health insurance, or to which a claim is submitted.

Upon receipt of a request from you, the M.I.B. will arrange disclosure of any information it may have in your file. Medical information will only be disclosed to your attending physician. If you question the accuracy of information in the Bureau's file you may seek correction in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. The address of the Bureau's information office is P.O. Box 105, Essex Station, Boston, Mass. 02112; Phone (617) 426-3660.

SHARING WARMTH AND LOVE DURING THIS SPECIAL SEASON

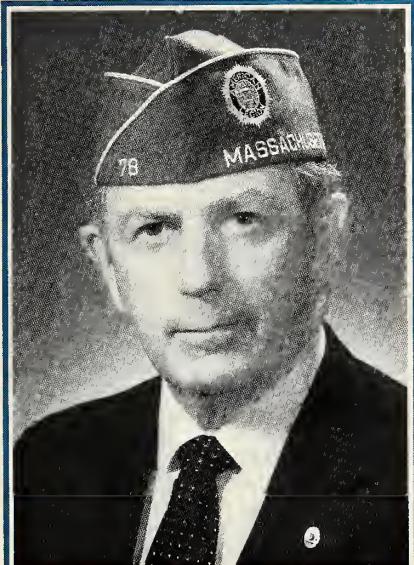
IT HAS been more than 31 years since Eileen and I joined our hearts and lives to become a family. In each of those years, December — with its evergreen and tinsel, its holy days and its endless rounds of fellowship and sharing — has been a happily hectic month of anticipation, preparation and celebration for us.

In the early years before the births of our three children, we were still "the kids," and for us December meant countless wonderful hours with those who had been a part of our childhoods. But as December turned to December, we gradually brought yet another generation to share in the warmth and love of the clan — a warmth and love that finds special expression during the holidays.

Eileen and I have enthusiastically taken part in the planning, the work and the joy of the large family holiday. Through it all, our planning and our celebration have meant togetherness and sharing, setting aside the cares of the world for another time.

This year, however, our holiday season includes an obligation that none of us anticipated, one that demands a significant departure from the tradition we have built. I will leave the final touches to our holiday plans to Eileen and the rest of the family for a few days, because you have given me a responsibility that I cannot ignore. As you read this I am preparing to return to Central America, where I will learn, firsthand, of the progress being made toward freedom and democracy for the beleaguered people of that region.

I intend to return to Nicaragua to meet once again with Violeta Chamorro, publisher of *La Prensa*, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, a leading voice of the opposition to Sandinista oppression. As I meet with these brave Nicaraguan patriots, among many others, will



Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer

"Like a priceless heirloom, freedom must be treasured, protected, preserved and passed on."

•••••••••••••

I find a true return to democracy, as promised by the Sandinistas when they signed the Guatemala City Plan for peace in the region? Or will I find continued control of the people and repression of basic freedoms behind a cynical veil of cosmetic reforms?

I do not know.

But I do know that my quest for the truth, followed by a full report to you and the American people, is a gift that I, as National Commander, am in a unique position to give. I cannot give each of

you a package gaily wrapped in ribbon and foil. And I cannot give you the promise of peace on Earth — there is only One who has it in His power to do that. But I can do my part to see that you and I continue to live in a world where all are free to share the bounty of their labor, assemble without fear and worship according only to the dictates of their consciences. Such are the stakes in Central America.

These stakes are of such critical importance to all of us in this hemisphere that, in this holiday season, I willingly take leave of my own family to do my part for a larger one: the Legion family. I do not go to Nicaragua reluctantly, nor do I go hesitantly. I need only look into the eyes of my young grandson to know that no personal sacrifice is too great to pay to preserve for him and his generation a nation, perhaps a world, in which they will grow and prosper to their fullest potential.

That is, after all, the gift we were given by our fathers and grandfathers. Like a priceless heirloom, freedom must be treasured, protected, preserved and then passed, intact and untarnished, to generations still unborn. It is the obligation of all of us to do our part, no matter how difficult and without regard to personal sacrifice. That is our tradition as American veterans, and the giving of gifts bought at such great price is in the highest tradition of this holiday season.

As you and your family celebrate the coming holidays, you will be in the Comer Clan's hearts and prayers. I, in particular, will reflect on the great gift of confidence and responsibility you have given me as your National Commander. I pray that what I give to you in return fulfills your hopes and dreams.

From our family to you and yours, Eileen and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. □

Buying Up America

About 10 years ago, the Soviet Union secretly attempted to acquire three California banks, hoping to obtain sensitive information about the high-tech firms that do business with those banks. A newsletter leak aborted that espionage operation, Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa told his colleagues, but he added that it is important to learn what other foreign investors may be doing.

Together with Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, Harkin has introduced legislation to require registration of foreign investors that buy interests in American factories, refineries, farm land and real estate. The purpose of the bill is not to halt or hobble investment from abroad, the senators said; rather, it would let the U.S. government track the \$1.3 trillion that has poured into the United States in recent years.

Many countries already require disclosure of significant foreign investments. The senators are concerned that our failure to keep track of foreign investors could endanger our national security and blunt our competitive edge.

Women Gaining On Men

Women are making headway in male occupations and even in salaries, but there's still a long way to go toward equality, the Commerce Department reported. In the first significant income change in years, full-time women workers' average wages jumped from 62 percent of what men earned in 1979 to 70 percent in 1986.

The department attributed the gain in wages to the fact that women are increasingly finding employment in higher-paid fields once dominated by men—for instance, law, computer programming, engineering and accounting. The study found that female accountants and auditors represented 45 percent of those professions in 1986, compared with 34 percent in 1979. The number of women computer programmers jumped from 28 percent to 40 percent; lawyers, from 10 percent to 15 percent; and electrical and electronic engineers, from 22 percent to 29 percent.

But there was a significant pay difference between men and women who had similar seniority. Among those who had at least 10 years on the job, women earned \$8.66 an hour, while men earned \$12.66.

Infant Deaths Too High

Surprisingly, the United States' infant-mortality rate ranks 17th in the world, behind Singapore and Hong Kong, according to Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, a sponsor of legislation that would help high-risk mothers and their babies get needed health care.

Nearly 40,000 of the 3.7 million children born in this country in 1984 died before their first birthdays. It is particularly alarming, Kennedy said, that black infants are nearly twice as likely to die as white babies.

Infant mortality runs high among low-income Americans. One of every three poor children and one of every three poor women of childbearing age have no medical insurance. According to Kennedy, two-thirds of all infant deaths can be

attributed to low birth weight. In 1987 alone 250,000 babies were expected to be born underweight, and these infants are 40 times more likely to die in the first month of life than normal babies, he said.

Low birth weight can be prevented at relatively low cost, the senator maintained. He proposed \$35 million to increase medical services in areas where high-risk women and infants live.

Kennedy said he believes that early prenatal care can reduce the number of infants who are born underweight by more than 25 percent. It has been estimated that for every \$1 spent on prenatal care, \$3.38 would be saved in the total cost of caring for low-birth-weight infants.

Taxes For Peace?

With the April tax deadline only a few months off, a small bloc of senators and representatives is trying to stir up support for a U.S. Peace Fund Act that would give conscientious objectors the right to designate that their taxes be spent only for non-military purposes.

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon first proposed the legislation 10 years ago. In the current session of Congress, the bill is attracting co-sponsors who say they believe that just as conscientious objectors are excused from combat, they should be permitted to ask that their taxes be used for strictly peaceful objectives.

Hatfield said that the Peace Fund bill is not "a method by which a citizen may lodge protest over wasteful defense programs . . . nor is it a tool to circumvent foreign-policy initiatives." Instead, he said, the legislation will "allow certain individuals to fully uphold federal law without violating their consciences."

A Call For The Draft

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina, known for his strong convictions, doesn't give up easily. He called for the revival of the compulsory draft in the past two Congresses and is again raising the issue in the current session.

A member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Hollings said that voluntary military service is divisive. The reality of the volunteer system, he argued, is that "for hundreds of thousands of undereducated, under-skilled, unemployed young people, the military has become an employer of last resort."

He said that if our nation were to go to war tomorrow, the "sons of suburbia" would watch it all on television, while the "sons of the inner city" and of the rural areas would "fight and die in radically disproportionate numbers."

"The volunteer Army has created a whole generation with no concept whatsoever of service to country," Hollings said.

Quote Of The Month

"Washington, D.C., is a small town on the Potomac completely surrounded by reality."

George Will
Syndicated columnist

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SHOULD THE SOCIAL SECURITY 'NOTCH' BE ADJUSTED?

Rep. Edward R. Roybal, D-Calif.

The Social Security "notch" was caused by an unintended reduction in benefits for people born between 1917 and 1921. The 1977 amendments were designed to correct problems in the over-indexed 1972 benefit formula and reduce benefits for all persons eligible for retirement after 1978. Congress wanted to phase in the reduction over several years, so as not to hurt those who were already counting on receiving a specific Social Security benefit.

Unfortunately, this transition did not work because of the double-digit inflation of the late 1970s and early 1980s. More important, it did not work because the formula used to calculate benefits during the transition period ignored post-age-61 earnings. Instead of being reduced over five years by 6 percent to 10 percent, benefits for an average-earning 65-year-old retiree born in 1917 were reduced by 10 percent. In subsequent years, discrepancies of 20 percent or more have been noted. I do not believe that Congress ever intended for there to be such a drastic cut in benefits over such a short period.

My goal has always been to press for a responsible solution to the notch problem, a solution that will restore millions of notch babies' faith in the system without undoing the necessary reforms of 1977. In April of this year, 125 of my colleagues and I introduced H.R. 1917. The bill currently has 146 bipartisan co-sponsors.

H.R. 1917 would allow for a 10-year transition to the new benefit formula, computing benefits under the 1972 formula and reducing them by 3 percent. Benefits would be reduced an additional 3 percent for each year after 1916 that a person was born. Beneficiaries would be protected against abrupt reductions in benefits, as envisioned under the 1977 amendments, and also would receive retroactive benefits. Under H.R. 1917, average-earning 65-year-old retirees born between 1917 and 1924 would receive higher benefits than under current law, while 65-year-old retirees born after 1924 would receive the benefits projected under current law.

Obviously, this blatant inequity should not exist. Such arbitrary discrepancies in benefit levels are unfair, and they undermine confidence in the Social Security system. H.R. 1917 solves this problem responsibly and fairly. □

YES



Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr., D-Ind.



NO

There probably is no greater rage than the perception that you are being treated unfairly. That perception has been engendered among those in the so-called "notch" years of the Social Security system. But it is a misperception.

The confusion began with a column written by a lovelorn lady. And the column's assertion of unfairness to notch folks was thoroughly inaccurate.

There was an error in the Social Security formula for cost-of-living adjustments established in 1972. By the end of the decade, the erroneous formula had overstated inflation by 30 percent. That is to say, in real dollars (adjusted for actual inflation), Social Security benefits exceeded the intended amount — namely the purchasing power of the 1972 dollar.

The error occurred at the same time that people still in the work force saw the purchasing power of their earnings fall 10 percent. This could not go on without bankrupting the system.

To those born between 1910 and 1916, the Social Security system is more than fair; their excessive benefits are less than fair to those taxpayers who are still in the work force.

You hear it said that only people born from 1917 through 1921 received the corrected amount of Social Security benefits. But this is not true. People born during that period actually receive transitional benefits that are higher than benefits for people born after 1921.

Beyond the notch years, the Social Security system benefits are back on track. These benefits are fair both to retirees and Social Security taxpayers, if you accept the basic premise that through the years, you should be able to buy the same number of beans with Social Security benefits that you could buy with such benefits in 1972.

With the Social Security trust fund building briskly as a consequence of higher Social Security taxes, some may ask why we can't just accept the erroneous formula of the '70s for all Social Security retirees. The answer is implied by something you hear young workers say nearly every day: "By the time I reach retirement age, there won't be any Social Security left for me." That must not be allowed to happen. Fair benefits in this century, adjusted accurately for inflation, will mean fair benefits in the next century for those who are paying now. What's fair's fair. □

YOUR OPINION COUNTS, TOO

Senators and congressmen are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Presenting the Constitution 200th Commemorative .44 Magnum

"The Boldest Symbol Ever to Honor the World's Most Powerful Document,
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Length: 15". Weight: 4 pounds



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In the hands of Americans, for two centuries, arms have defended hearth and home, country and Constitution. With them we will continue our defense for centuries more.

What more fitting tribute, then, to honor the 200th Anniversary of the Constitution than a commemorative arm? For without our Constitutional freedom there could be no firearms ownership at all.

The .44 Magnum was selected because of its famous, long reign as the world's most powerful handgun. And, the Dan Wesson was chosen because it represents the ultimate in American, six-shot revolvers. It is the biggest; at 15" overall, with a 10" barrel, it weighs four pounds. With its removable barrel, adjustable-stop trigger, front-mounted cylinder latch, replaceable front sight and deeply machine-broached rifling, it is the most advanced. These features have helped Dan Wesson revolvers win the IHMSA Silhouette Championships for the past five years, taking 38 of the top 50 finishes since 1981.

A Collector First

As the first commemorative Dan Wesson handgun in history, this is in the "first ever" class of distinction, which has seen many significant, well-documented price increases. From a collector viewpoint, this is destined to be an important classic. From the standpoint of future investment value, this is one of the rarest big-bore handguns of any type ever because only a relative few are being made.

24-Karat Gold

Each gun in the Collector's Limited Edition is specially polished and blued to a rich, gloss-black finish. The hammer, trigger and front sight and rear sight are plated with pure 24-karat gold. Deep etching, gold-gilt infilled for contrast and beauty, covers

the presentation side of the barrel. The two clusters of 13 stars each represent the original colonies; together, the 26 stars symbolize the 26 Amendments to the Constitution over the past 200 years.

Each gun is fitted with a custom presentation grip, made with real ivory combined with polymers for split resistance. Each grip is fitted with a fired enamel cloisonné medallion, bearing the Federal Shield and the title of the edition. To permanently memorialize your revolver, your initials will be engraved, at no charge, on the left side of the grip.

Limited Edition of 950

Only 950 are being hand built in this Collector's Edition, with three digit serial numbers from 001 to 950, with the prefix CC, for "Constitution Commemorative." Each is issued with a Certificate of Authenticity indelibly printed with the Serial Number and attesting to the edition limit and purity of the 24-karat gold plating. Consecutive serial numbers are available if you order a pair.

The optional glass and walnut showcase is a beautiful and patriotic way to display and protect the investment value of this piece. Inset with a parchment copy of the Constitution and lined with velvet, it measures 20" x 9" x 3", with a 24" base. Collectors who reserve a pair of guns have available an optional two-gun case (not shown).

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This is a firing handgun that could be used to defend your home and family. It's also a precision-made, highly accurate target pistol that you could shoot to win in competition.

This brief opportunity to sign up for the ultimate in .44 Magnums is available exclusively from The American Historical Foundation. The limited edition of 500 silver plated models of this gun has already been sold out; Serial No. 1 is being presented to the NRA-established Firearms Civil Rights Legal Defense Fund, for display in the NRA Museum in Washington, D.C.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

A small deposit will hold your reservation.

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Please hand engrave my initials on the left side of the grip. Initials:

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For Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Virginia residents add tax.

In the past, Legionnaires had to drag themselves to the pharmacy at all hours of the day and night, in all states of ill health and poor weather, only to be kept waiting to pay too much for all their trouble.

But no more. For this is the age of Home Shopping Pharmacy.SM A time of great convenience, in which people need venture no further than the mailbox to order pharmaceuticals at competitive prices. Then wait in the comfort of their own homes for the UPS delivery van to bring prescriptions as well as their choice of hundreds of over-the-counter items.

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and at a price you can live with, don't turn this page. Call 1 (800) BUY-RxRx (that's 1 (800) 289-7979) for prices or more information. Then just fill out the patient profile and order form attached. Drop it (don't forget your prescriptions) into the postage-paid envelope on page 44. Lick, seal, mail.

And remember, be it ever so humble, there's no place like Home Shopping Pharmacy.SM



Home Shopping PharmacySM

A Legionnaire's home is his pharmacy.

THE OLD WAYS OF GETTING MEDICINE HAVE LOST THEIR POTENCY.

Times are changing. And Home Shopping PharmacySM is the reason. It's the pharmacy of the future. The state of the art.

Here, prescriptions are computer checked against patient history to avoid negative interactions. Then they're filled by registered pharmacists with only the highest quality brand name and generic drugs, triple checked for accuracy, and sealed to be tamper resistant. (Of course, we meet all Federal and State requirements.)

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JUST BECAUSE WE'RE THE PHARMACY OF THE FUTURE DOESN'T MEAN WE'VE FORGOTTEN THE PAST.

Once upon a time, pharmacists were only a phone call away. Day or night.

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SEEING THE DIFFERENCE AND CHOOSING

By Walter Polovchak

I WAS 12 years old when I made the most important decision of my life: I refused to return to the Soviet Union with my parents. I did not have too much time to think about it because my parents were ready to leave, but my choice was pretty obvious. I decided that I would do anything to stay in this country.

I didn't have any guarantee that I would be able to stay here, and I had to fight for more than five years. All that time I lived in fear that I would be forcibly returned to the Soviet Union. Finally, on my 18th birthday, I was granted U.S. citizenship.

Many people I talk to here say that I should have gone with my parents, to avoid all the court battles, and just come back to America when I turned 18 years old. People don't understand that I never would have been able to leave the Soviet Union again once I returned.

Even if I were to go there now as an American citizen, I wouldn't be able to return. People like me, and many others who defected or who spoke out against the Soviet Union, are considered to be traitors. For this, people get thrown in jail or sent to concentration camps.

Foreigners who visit the Soviet Union think that it's a great place. That is because they get to stay in the best hotels and eat the best foods. Visits to the Soviet Union are limited to particular places that are approved by the government. The government will not allow you to go outside the city limits into the small villages. That's why a lot of people say it's a nice place.

I agree with them 100 percent — it's a nice place to visit. But I didn't want to live there. I have lived in both countries, and I have seen the difference.

Religion is outlawed in the Soviet Union. Any students who are caught



HARD CHOICE — Polovchak was just 12 when he defected to the United States.

attending church are punished in school the next day. The teachers make them stay after school, clean the chalkboards, wash desks or collect scrap iron. Children go to school every day; they spend every religious holiday in school, watching films about communism.

After eighth grade, most children go to work; very few go to college. You need to have a lot of money or know somebody in a high position to go to a good college. And you must be a member of the Communist Party.

There is no such thing as a protest or strike in the Soviet Union. If you do strike, you are jeopardizing your future and the future of your children. You need the government's permission to travel to another town. An average citizen makes about 75 rubles, about \$95 a month. Food is hard to get. You have to wait in line to buy just about everything.

Everything is owned by the state. Very few common people own an automobile, since you have to wait five years or longer to buy one. Many people in the Soviet Union sleep on dirt floors in rooms without any heat. They

have to worry about what they are going to eat the next day. How many Americans worry about what to eat tomorrow? How many Americans worry about where to sleep?

Many of us here complain when we don't get to take a shower. In the Soviet Union, people take baths once a month. Few houses have bathrooms inside; most of them are outside. In cities, you have to wait in line for toilet paper, and in many villages, people don't know what toilet paper looks like. They use newspaper.

In the Soviet Union, people do not know what is going on in the rest of the world. Newspapers and television broadcasts do not say anything about other countries, unless it serves the propaganda goals of the state.

The Soviet press doesn't even cover the news around the Soviet Union. If there is a plane crash or a similar calamity, nobody hears about it at all unless some high official died in the accident.

When I lived in the Soviet Ukraine, I didn't hear one good thing about the United States. Everything I heard was horrible. People would say "It's very dirty over there" and that black people are slaves. They would say that this country is run by bums, and that people are starving and have no place to sleep.

When I came to this country early in 1980, I saw a very big difference. In this country our pets eat better food than many Soviet people eat. Any Soviet citizen would give his right arm to have anything that this country has to offer. Soviet people would do anything for many things we take for granted.

In America it is no big deal to have a pair of jeans. On the black market in the Soviet Union a pair of jeans costs the equivalent of \$190; a pack of gum is about \$3.75. A wool scarf that costs \$20 here can sell in the Soviet Union for \$150. You can't buy them in stores.

A lot of people I talk to, especially the young, think that life in the Soviet Union is almost the same as it is here. They are mistaken. People in America take freedom for granted. I don't, and I never will. There is no place like the United States of America. □

DANGER IN OUR SKIES

By Jerome Greer Chandler

THE scenario is frighteningly familiar: A small private plane and a commercial airliner collide near a major metropolitan airport. Everyone aboard both aircraft dies. In January, the drama was acted out near the windward side of the Wasatch Mountains south of Salt Lake City, when a Skywest Airlines Metro 2 prop jet and a single-engine Mooney met 2,800 feet above the ground, killing 10 people.

Last August, an Aeromexico DC-9 and a private Piper Archer collided over Cerritos, Calif. All 67 people on the two aircraft died, as did 15 on the ground. For the second time in less than six months, Americans looked up and wondered about the safety of flying.

A near in-air collision occurs when two or more aircraft come within 500 feet vertically or horizontally of one another, or when one of the pilots involved reports a close call to the Federal Aviation Administration. In 1985, U.S. pilots reported 777 near collisions. Last year, the preliminary figure jumped to 828.

"These new figures show that we are continuing a very dangerous slide in air safety," said Rep. Guy Molinari of New York, a member of the House Public Works and Transportation subcommittee on investigations and oversight. "The system is getting worse from already unacceptable levels. On average, near collisions are reported by pilots more than twice each day. We have heard of incidents in which planes have come so close in the air that only chance prevented a collision."

Most near collisions involve private or military aircraft. But it's clear that many commercial airliners are far too vulnerable as well.

The cause of most commercial colli-

As collisions and close calls grow more frequent, all eyes focus on our crowded skies.



CLOSE CALLS — The FAA and the airlines are scrambling to find solutions.

sions is the crowded airspace around busy metropolitan airports. Officially, this cross-stitched swath of sky is called a Terminal Control Area, or TCA. Wary airline pilots call it "Indian country" because it's a place inhabited by everything from 747s inbound from Honolulu to two-passenger Tomahawks up for an afternoon's sightseeing. As recent safety records show, the mix can be deadly.

In the turbulent wake of the Cerritos tragedy, FAA chief Donald Engen appointed a special task force to examine the escalation of close encounters in TCAs. The panel's report provided more than 40 recommendations for improving the system, most of which called for better control of general-aviation (private) traffic.

TCAs resemble inverted wedding cakes in their complex airborne architecture. Any aircraft — military, commercial or private — that flies through

these zones must be readily identifiable by, and in contact with, air-traffic control. It's up to all pilots to know the TCA's borders. The problem is that vertical and horizontal boundaries differ from city to city.

Engen's task force recommended a standard configuration for all TCAs: an area with a radius of 30 miles from the zone's primary airport and a ceiling of up to 10,000 feet. In addition, an FAA spokesman said, "We have set up and have in progress now an intensive educational campaign designed to acquaint all the pilots with the rules and equipment required to operate in TCAs. The effort is called 'Back to Basics.' "

If the task force's recommendations are adopted, all aircraft flying at 12,500 feet or lower within a TCA's 30-mile radius will have to be outfitted with special devices called Mode C transponders. These "black boxes" will respond to radar and enable controllers to determine at a glance an aircraft's position and altitude.

The idea behind "Back to Basics" and Mode C transponders is to help controllers perform their jobs better. Still, because it's a system based on human judgment, mistakes happen. Airplanes and lives can slip through the cracks in the best systems. That's where the new Traffic Alert/Collision Avoidance System (T/CAS 2) comes in.

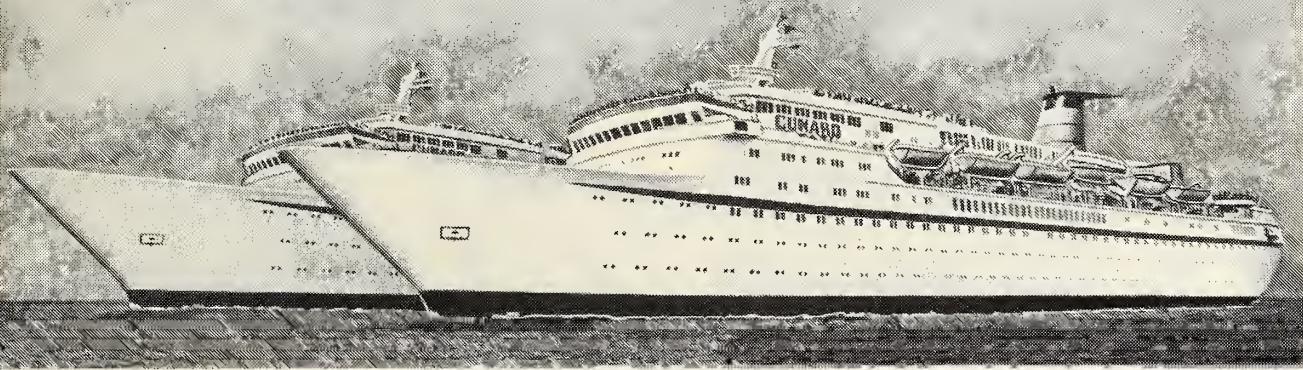
The T/CAS 2 operates independently of air-traffic control as a last line of electronic defense against disaster. Aircraft equipped with the device will have 20 to 25 seconds' warning of a potential collision — time enough for the pilot to take evasive action.

Pilot education, Mode C transponders, simplification of TCAs and installation of T/CAS systems are short-term solutions. A major component of the FAA's long-term solution is the National Airspace Plan, an estimated \$16 billion automated program that will revamp the air-traffic-control system.

The plan is designed to be operating by the turn of the century, but many safety experts contend that it can't come too soon. It's estimated that by 2000, 750 million passengers will entrust their lives to the air-traffic-control system each year. □

Jerome Greer Chandler is a contributing editor of International Passenger Association, a publication concerned with commercial-aviation safety.

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HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

SAVING AMERICA'S GROUND WATER

Although half of America's drinking water comes from ground water, not enough is being done to protect it from contamination.

By Sen. Quentin Burdick

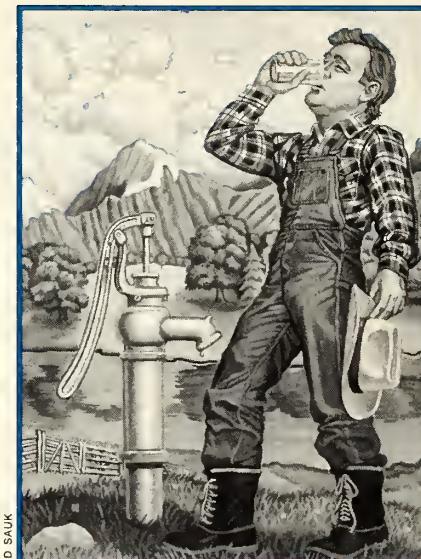
AS ONE who is deeply concerned about the environment of this great land, I am thoroughly convinced that ground-water cleanup and protection should be a top priority of our government.

Half the people in the United States depend on ground water as their primary source of drinking water. In rural areas, up to 97 percent of the people use ground water for drinking, and it is critically needed by agriculture and industry as well.

As a Westerner from a farming state, I know too well that ground water — water that fills grains, cracks and crevices in rocks — is our lifeblood. Our ground-water resources constitute a water supply 50 times greater than what is available from rivers and lakes.

The threats to our ground-water resources may not be as visible as a polluted lake or stream, but they are just as real. Contamination includes leaking underground storage tanks for petroleum and other chemicals, existing Superfund cleanup sites, municipal landfills, industrial wastes, sewage-disposal systems, and injection wells used for oil and gas recovery.

In the past year or so, Congress has passed several pieces of legislation that address the sources of water contamination. Among them is the \$9 billion Superfund reauthorization bill that will clean up the worst hazardous-waste sites in the country. Included in the



PRIME SOURCE — Almost all rural Americans depend on potable ground water.

Superfund amendments is a \$500 million program to clean up leaking underground storage tanks. And the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments are designed to safeguard public water supplies through the wellhead-protection program.

Congress passed a new Clean Water Act early this year, providing \$20 billion for upgrading our sewage-treatment plants; cleaning up our lakes, rivers and estuaries; and helping to control non-point sources of pollution that include runoff from fields, urban streets and overflowing storm sewers.

Although these statutes will make a major difference in our nation's water quality, I believe that other new laws to protect ground water are necessary. On the first day of the 100th Congress, senators Daniel Moynihan, George Mitchell, Max Baucus, Frank Lauten-

berg and I introduced S. 20, the Ground Water Protection Act of 1987.

The bill, which maintains state control of ground water, says the federal government should not dictate to the states how their water resources should be managed. However, state officials have repeatedly told Congress that they need the U.S. Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.), the EPA and other federal agencies to perform basic ground-water research so that states can make informed decisions.

On April 28, my colleagues and I introduced a research amendment to S. 20 that would further strengthen and clarify the responsibilities of the U.S. Geological Survey, EPA, the DoA and other agencies to provide states with the best information possible. I also introduced this research provision as a separate bill to underscore the importance of research to ground-water legislation.

Unlike most surface water, which is treated before it is consumed, most ground water goes directly to the tap. House-by-house testing of tap water can be very expensive, especially in rural areas, where a complete analysis can cost up to \$2,000. And removing contamination is even more expensive. Our only prudent alternative is to prevent that water from becoming contaminated in the first place.

Our bill establishes a comprehensive ground-water research program at the EPA, which will investigate methods of controlling ground-water contamination. It also sets up a new program to research the health effects of ground-water contamination, as well as a national clearing-house for ground-water information.

In addition, the bill expands the existing research program at the Agricultural Research Service and defines the role of the U.S.G.S. in determining the locations and quantities of the nation's ground-water sources.

The funding for this legislation is about \$285 million per year, only one-third of which is new funding. Over five years, the bill's appropriations will total about \$1.1 billion.

I believe that the American people will consider this money to be well spent. Cleaning up even one Superfund site can cost more than the cost of this bill over five years. Whether we are farmers, manufacturers or simply domestic users of water, we all know we must act now to protect this irreplaceable resource for ourselves and for our children. □

Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota is the chairman of the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee.

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BEWARE THE FIRE SEASON

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and kerosene heaters can help take the chill out of winter nights, but they can be potential killers, too.

By Bill Cantor

THE first frost of the season had been predicted for that mid-October night. Before leaving for the third shift, he shoved some logs into the cold belly of the wood-burning stove, then kissed his wife and children goodbye.

When he returned shortly after dawn, the grim faces of the firefighters told the story. His family had perished, and the house had been reduced to a hissing pile of charred planks. All that remained was the stove amidst the rubble.

About 6,000 Americans die each year in fires, and nearly 80 percent of the fatalities occur in homes. An increasing number of fires and deaths in recent years have struck since homeowners and apartment dwellers turned to wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, kerosene space heaters and other devices for inexpensive heat.

Most wood-burning stoves sold today are designed to heat single rooms, but more sophisticated systems use ducts to heat other rooms. Homeowners who plan to install a wood-burning stove should begin by checking local building codes for acceptable models and purchase only cast-iron or steel stoves that bear the approval seal of a testing laboratory.

Some people are unaware of the dangers of defective merchandise when they purchase wood-burning stoves. For example, the slightest crack could make the stove a potential killer.

Fire departments have reported many

fires caused by wood-burning stoves as a result of faulty installation. It's important to follow installation instructions provided by the manufacturers. As an added precaution, consult local firefighters. Often, they will inspect the stoves free of charge.

ONCE installed, there is the question of what fuel to use for both wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Heavy hardwoods such as ash, oak, maple and beech provide safe, long-lasting fires. Soft woods such as pine and spruce also can be used safely, but do not burn as long. Plywood and scrap wood from construction sites, or any wood that has been treated with paint or other chemicals, are dangerous. Scrap wood from construction not only burns unevenly, but also produces many toxic gases.

There also are dangers in using a

LIFE-TAKING—About 6,000 Americans die in fires each year, mostly in homes.



wood-burning stove to incinerate the family trash. Newspapers and Christmas wrapping paper can give off dangerous fumes when burned and create problems for the chimney. Vacuum cleaner bags filled with dust also are dangerous. The bags are like mini-bombs that can explode because of the confined dust. Coal, plastic packaging and charcoal never should be burned in stoves or fireplaces because they produce poisonous gases. And never use flammable liquids to start a fire or restart one that is dying.

The fireplace, if improperly maintained, can be a disaster awaiting an opportunity. At the beginning of the fire season, the lining of the fireplace should be checked for cracks or loose materials. The chimney and vent system also should be inspected to ensure they are in good, safe-operating condition. One of the dangers associated with a fireplace is creosote—a highly volatile byproduct created from burning wood (and newspaper) that accumulates inside a chimney and can ignite. Professional chimney sweeps can help prevent this kind of fire by cleaning chimneys annually.

A fireplace, like a stove, requires a good draft to prevent the accumulation of smoke and toxic gases. The fireplace damper should never be closed while hot ashes remain. A closed damper can cause heat to build up and create a sudden flareup of hot ashes that can scatter sparks and burning embers. The closed damper also could prevent deadly carbon monoxide fumes and other gases from escaping.

Kerosene space heaters have become increasingly popular because of the high cost of home heating. Unfortunately, kerosene heaters are fire hazards and, in many areas, have been declared illegal or restricted to certain uses.

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and space heaters can be cost-cutting sources of heat and safe to use when properly installed and maintained. Imprudence, however, not only could lead to a winter of discomfort, but also a lifetime tragedy.

*The American Legion has prepared a booklet, **The American Legion Fire Protection/Prevention Program**, intended to help Legionnaires and their families prevent fires in their homes and businesses. Copies of the booklets are available free of charge from the National Security/Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.* □

Bill Cantor, author of FIRE! Prevention · Protection · Escape ·, is former director of the Institute for Home Fire Safety.

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THE FAMILY

'WELLSPRING OF OUR STRENGTH'

Some experts claim that the family is declining as a dominant force in American society. Don't you believe it, says Nat'l Cmdr. Comer.

ON THE eve of his election as National Commander in San Antonio, John P. "Jake" Comer knelt on the hotel-room floor, trying to convince his wide-eyed grandson, Sean Patrick, that it was safe to shake hands with an inflatable Big Bird doll. Around the room, other family members talked, teased and laughed. Comer gazed around him and smiled. "This is what it's all about—all that matters," he said.

To the Comers, who refer to themselves as the "Comer Clan," family is more than just a smattering of designated dads, moms, daughters, sons and grandparents; more than an assortment of uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws. "The family is the wellspring of our strength and the object of our loyalty for each of us," Comer said.

Indeed, much has been written about the decline of the American family. Media are rife with reports of child and spouse abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction, incest, suicide, juvenile crime, missing children and divorce. Although sociologists report that assaults on the family unit continue to grow without any signs of abating, Comer insists that most American families are strong enough to survive the onslaught.

"The American family today is as solid an institution as it ever has been," Comer said. "When we speak of the future of this nation, we look to the family."

That's a philosophy the Quincy, Mass., commander and his wife Eileen have shared during their 31-year marriage, a philosophy they have passed on

to their two daughters and son. "We've always done things as a team," Mrs. Comer said. "Sharing and caring are the building blocks for a solid family life. Our priorities always have been clear: God, family and country."

COMER'S concepts of the traditional family, its strengths and its importance to the nation's future parallel those that have guided The American Legion for nearly seven decades. *Family* is the fabric that binds Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and their associated organizations. "My family and I always sang *Side By Side* when riding together in the car," Comer said. "And that's the theme for the Legion and Auxiliary as we travel along together as a family."

"What a family the Legion is," Comer said. "We come from every con-

ceivable background, race and religion. But what makes us alike are the men and women who are dedicated to bettering their communities and caring for their children and youths.

"Countless American boys have learned through American Legion Baseball that success often hinges on teamwork and commitment to a common goal," the commander said. "Young men and women also have discovered the rights and responsibilities of living in a democracy, and they have eloquently expressed those challenges in the Legion's High-School Oratorical Contest. Youths also have learned how our government operates by participating in Boys State and Girls State."

One of the ways Comer intends to directly touch the lives of American families during his tenure is to lead a fund drive that will raise \$1 million for the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation. The foundation is a special trust that makes grants to programs and institutions dedicated to the health and welfare of America's children and youths. "And this does not include the concern Legionnaires show for the children of veterans in their communities," Comer said. "For example, last year, posts contributed \$1.35 million in direct cash aid to needy veterans' families."

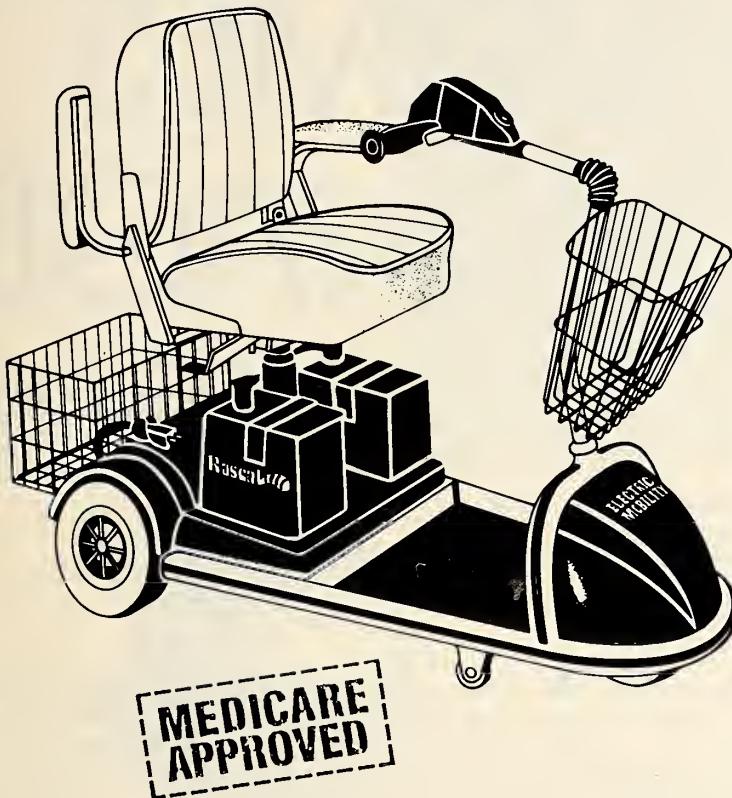
"That concern for children begins in the home. If it isn't deeply instilled in the family, it won't be found in the community," Comer said.

Whether it's in the Legion's many wholesome programs or helping grandsons make friends with Big Bird, the strength of family is the closeness of its members and what they do together — side by side. □



THE WELLSPRING — The "Comer Clan" enjoys a homecoming picnic in Quincy in honor of the National Commander. From right are the commander, his wife Eileen, daughter Marie Zagrodny, son John Joseph, son-in-law Theodore Zagrodny, son-in-law James P. Hughes, daughter Margaret M. (Peggy) Hughes and grandson Sean Patrick Hughes.

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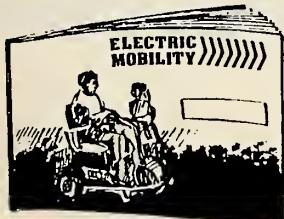
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AFGHANISTAN

WAR CRIMES AND CARNAGE

The Soviet Union's savage attack on Afghanistan lays bare the true nature of communism — a vicious, inhuman tyranny, says retired Maj. Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, chairman of the Committee for a Free Afghanistan.

American Legion Magazine: How bad is the situation in Afghanistan?

General Roberts: It's the worst refugee situation in the world. Of an original population of 15 million, approximately 5 million Afghans are now refugees. This means a third of the people have been driven out of their country.

Even so, they were the lucky ones. At least a million others are dead — most of them peasants who were in their villages and adobe houses when they were bombed out by the Soviet Union and its puppet Afghan air force. So in effect, the Soviet Union is committing genocide against the people of Afghanistan.

Q. Doesn't this kind of barbarity amount to blatant war crimes?

A. Yes, and the barbarity extends beyond destruction of the population. It is incredible that a so-called civilized nation would deliberately maim children by dropping butterfly bombs that look like attractive toys. Children pick up these "toys," and their hands or arms are blown off, or they are killed.

Soviet troops have murdered people in cold blood, usually in an attempt to force villagers to reveal where the *Mujahideen* are hiding. They have taken children up in helicopters and threatened to throw them out unless their parents talk. Sometimes they have poured kerosene on children and burned them alive because their parents would not reveal the location of the *Mujahideen*. Also, they are systematically eliminating Afghanistan's food-production capability by destroying irrigation networks, which prevents the people from growing crops.

Q. What can be done to gain the world's attention so that other countries will press the Kremlin for a cease-fire?

A. The Committee for a Free Afghanistan has been working on that, but we're a small group. Most significant, a group of lawyers from several countries is working to prepare formal war-crimes charges against the USSR for its outrages. These will be placed before the International Court, as well as Congress.

It's meaningful that the U.N. has voted against the Soviet Union time after time when the issue has been raised there. That's surprising, because the Third World countries generally vote with the Soviet Union. Not on Afghanistan, though. The only votes it gets are those of the hard-core satellites, Cuba — and India, surprisingly.

Q. Is there any hope of getting the Soviets out and letting the Afghan refugees back in?

A. Yes, mainly because of the unbelievable tenacity and courage of the Afghan people. Despite tremendous hardships — murder, destruction of property and their civilization — they are still fighting and will continue to fight. The Western world has been increasing its support for them, and Pakistan is holding fast under very difficult circumstances.

Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to pass himself off as a Westernized, civilized individual, and he knows that the Soviet Union's treatment of Afghanistan is a black mark. He would like to get out, but on his terms.

Q. What kind of terms?

A. The Soviets want to wield absolute control over the country, to have a puppet regime as they now have — ruling a docile population, or what's left of it — and to be able

to continue to establish military bases and take advantage of Afghanistan's abundant natural resources. Soviet forces also hope to stay close to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean—a longtime Soviet objective.

Q. What effect has the Soviet attack had on other Moslem countries?

A. One of the two world superpowers is destroying a Moslem country. For that reason the people of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other Moslem nations have supported the Afghan resistance.

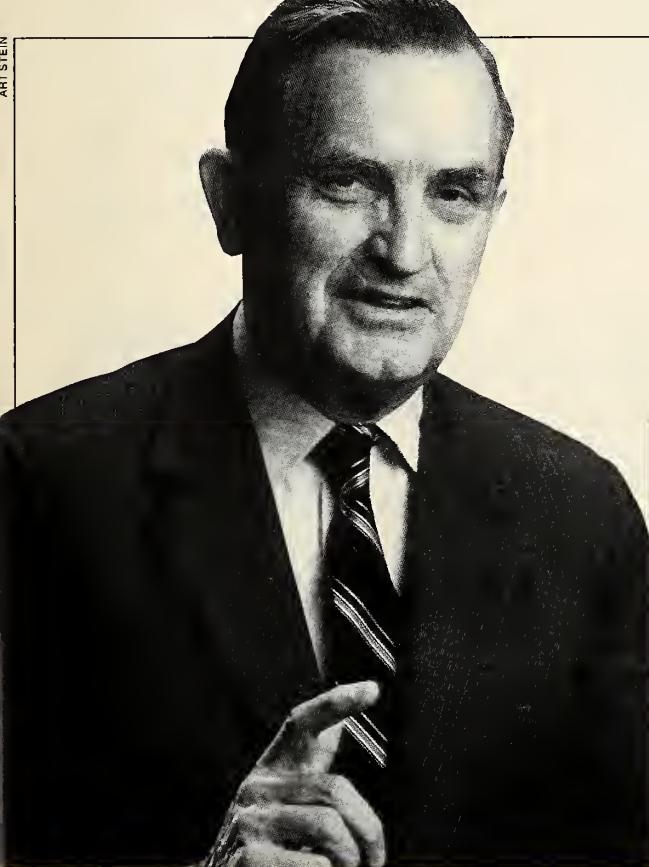
Q. Has there been a change in combat developments because of U.S. aid?

A. Yes, a very encouraging change. For a number of years I and others who are concerned with this problem kept insisting that the *Mujahideen* be given adequate air-defense weapons. They were doing well on the ground against ground targets, but they virtu-



FEARLESS — The *Mujahideen* have made the Soviets pay dearly for their aggression.

NACHTWAY/MAGNUM



Maj. Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, AUS (Ret.), is a longtime Legionnaire who is currently chairman of the Committee for a Free Afghanistan. He also has served as chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and as executive director of the Reserve Officers Association.

ally had no defense against helicopters or high-performance aircraft, and they were suffering grievous casualties because of that. However, since October 1986 the United States has been supplying them with Stinger ground-to-air, shoulder-fired missiles, and with proper training the Afghans have been quite successful in shooting down enemy aircraft.

Q. Has that almost grounded the Soviet air force?

A. No, we have to remember that Afghanistan is fairly large, about the size of Texas, and that the number of Stingers we have been able to supply is limited. But the Soviets are much more cautious now. They have become more reluctant to come in with MiGs and hit targets from a low altitude. And many of their helicopter gunships also have been destroyed.

Q. How do Americans feel about the Afghan situation?

A. There is no question that once Americans understand what is going on over there, they have to be sympathetic. Unfortunately, Afghanistan is just one of many world problems. It is a remote country, and most Americans don't think much about it. When it is brought to their attention, however, they support the resistance effort.

Q. How about congressional support?

A. So-called "covert support" amounts to between \$250 million and \$300 million a year—which makes what has been given to the Contras and Angolans look very small. There is almost full bipartisan support in Congress for what we are doing in Afghanistan. The only people who oppose such aid are hard-core leftists who seem to support anything that helps the Soviets and hurts us.

Q. Do we also provide refugee or humanitarian aid?

A. As indicated earlier, there is a major Afghan-refugee problem in Pakistan, which is a poor country. How can it feed 3.5 million extra people? Pakistan could not do it without the assistance of the West, and about 40 percent of



PRAYER POWER — Vastly outmanned and outgunned by the Soviets, the Mujahideen draw strength from prayer.

THE continued resistance of the Mujahideen eventually will force the Soviets into a face-saving compromise.

that assistance — hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of food, medical supplies and other aid — comes from the United States.

Q. What more can be done?

We want to increase the amount of lethal weapons going **A.** to the Mujahideen, especially Stingers, mine-detecting and communications equipment, and more effective weapons. Right now their most effective antitank weapons come from communist China.

Q. What role does China play in Afghanistan?

A. It is supplying war materials to the Mujahideen — mostly antitank weapons. The Chinese perceive that the Soviet Union is attempting to outflank their country. The Soviets already dominate Vietnam. Through their puppets there, they are trying to subjugate Laos and Kampuchea completely, then Thailand. If the Soviets manage to control Afghanistan and Pakistan, India will be placed in a squeeze and there would be virtual Soviet encirclement of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese are smart enough to know this and will continue to resist it.

Q. From a military point of view, what have the Soviets gained from their Afghan invasion?

A. Until 1979 the Soviet army and air force had not been in actual combat since World War II. Now it is estimated

that the Soviet Union has rotated about 1.5 million men through the Afghan war, and has given combat experience to officers, NCOs and soldiers who will be required to remain in the active forces or reserve units for many years. This experience would be very useful in a future conflict.

Also, the Soviets have used Afghanistan as a sort of warfare laboratory where they have tested new tactics and weapons. The latter include chemical- and biological-warfare experiments such as "yellow rain."

Equally important, the Soviets have built and are using air bases in western Afghanistan close to the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Q. Where is the Afghan problem heading?

A. The continued resistance of the *Mujahideen* eventually will force the Soviets into a face-saving compromise in which they will agree to withdraw their troops under a timetable as short as three months — which they certainly can do. They then will sponsor a face-saving candidate for the presidency of Afghanistan and try to rig the election.

In my opinion, they will not be successful. But I think that is the only way the Soviets will withdraw their troops, because Gorbachev has hard-liners to contend with in Moscow. If he appears to go in for an abject surrender, he probably will lose his job.

Q. So that probably would mean a continuing communist government in Afghanistan?

A. That would be the Soviets' hope. But I feel that it could not last very long because the present communist government is the third one. They have tried this before, and it has not worked.

Historically, guerrilla movements — and this describes the Afghan resistance — have taken anywhere from eight to 12 years to succeed. They eventually wear down their opposition. This was true in the Far East, and it was true in Latin America. I think that the Soviets finally will agree to a face-saving compromise in order to get out. □



MESSAGE OF WAR — An unexploded bomb presents a grim reminder of Soviet genocide in Afghanistan.

'Life As I Would Like It To Be'

FOR more than six decades the illustrations of Norman Rockwell have captured the heartbeat and tickled the fancy of America unlike any other illustrator of his time. In his own words, Rockwell said, "I painted life as I would like it to be." And millions of Americans saw in Rockwell's paintings the America that they knew and loved, making him America's most popular illustrator.

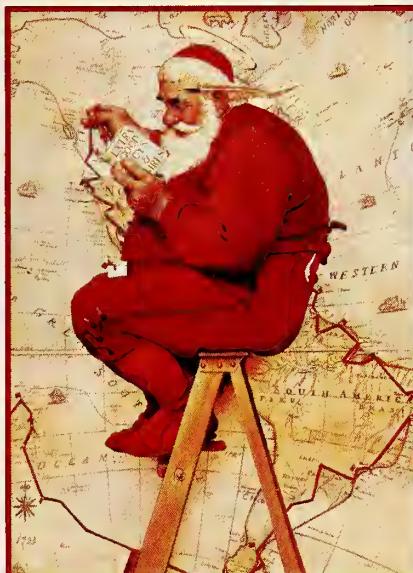
Rockwell's paintings, assessed by Arthur C. Danto of *The Nation*, "were escapes, visual entertainments designed to elicit a chuckle, tug the heartstrings and make the viewer feel good and warm."

Writing in *The New York Times*, Danto also recognized the enormous talent of the shy, unassuming Rockwell. "Rockwell painted with the luminous clarity and obsessive, detailed exactitude of a Flemish master," he said.

Critics and admirers notwithstanding, Rockwell displayed an uncanny knack for capturing the humor and pathos in those slices of life he painted — a family *Walking to Church*, a store service man installing *The New Television Set* or a salesman in a hotel room playing *Solitaire* in bed on his suitcase.

"He shows us people working with their hands and people working with their heads, and he accords them all equal dignity," wrote Christopher Finch, author of *Norman Rockwell's America*. "In Rockwell's America, something funny is liable to occur at any moment, however unlikely."

By the time Rockwell died in 1978, he had produced 3,594 illustrations, including more than 300 covers for *The Saturday Evening Post* and paintings



"Extra Good Boys and Girls"

ROCKWELL's work perpetuates the American way of life that is so dear to all.



that chronicled two world wars, the Great Depression and the civil-rights struggle.

The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., houses 600 of the master's illustrations. It is the world's most extensive Rockwell collection, valued at more than \$8.75 million. On permanent display are Rockwell's *Main*

Street in Stockbridge and *Four Freedoms*, a set of four paintings reproduced as posters during World War II.

Museum director Laurie Norton Moffatt and her staff spent more than 10 years locating and researching Rockwell illustrations. She said that last year about 112,000 tourists visited the museum — a six-room, 18th-century Georgian house that Stockbridge residents, including Rockwell and his wife Molly, saved from demolition in 1967.

Moffatt said that because of space limitations, only 50 paintings can be exhibited at one time; thus, exhibits are rotated regularly to permit maximum exposure of the collection. The need for museum expansion, however, was recognized as early as 1981, when the board of trustees authorized purchasing the 40-acre Linwood estate in Stockbridge. Since then the building housing Rockwell's studio — closed since his death — has been moved to the estate, and a campaign has been initiated to raise \$5 million for building a new museum on the site.

The museum will include a gallery, terrace gardens, auditorium, library, gift shop, information center, and parking lot for 100 cars and 10 buses. The heart of the museum will be the 12,000-square-foot gallery building, which will include accesses for the handicapped, air conditioning, better fire and theft protection, and much more space for art exhibits and storage of Rockwell memorabilia, as well as the museum's educational programs.

President Ronald Reagan is serving as honorary chairman of the campaign, which has raised \$2.6 million since it began last year.

Moffatt said that donors who wish to contribute more than \$2,500 to the



"Freedom from Want"



"Freedom from Fear"

museum fund may participate in the Adopt-A-Painting program. "Under certain conditions, a donor may choose a painting from the collection and adopt that painting," Moffatt said. "When this is done, a part of the gift goes toward the care and conservation of the chosen painting, and the remainder of the donation is put into the 'bricks and mortar' of the new gallery."

The campaign received an added boost last spring when the National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed Res. 22 in support of the fund drive.

"Perpetuating the great works of Norman Rockwell is perpetuating the values that have made America great," said Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer. "Rockwell's paintings depict the genuine patriotism and wholesome American way of life that all Legionnaires honor and seek to instill in thousands of communities throughout the nation. I encourage departments and posts to support the Norman Rockwell Museum campaign in any way they can." □

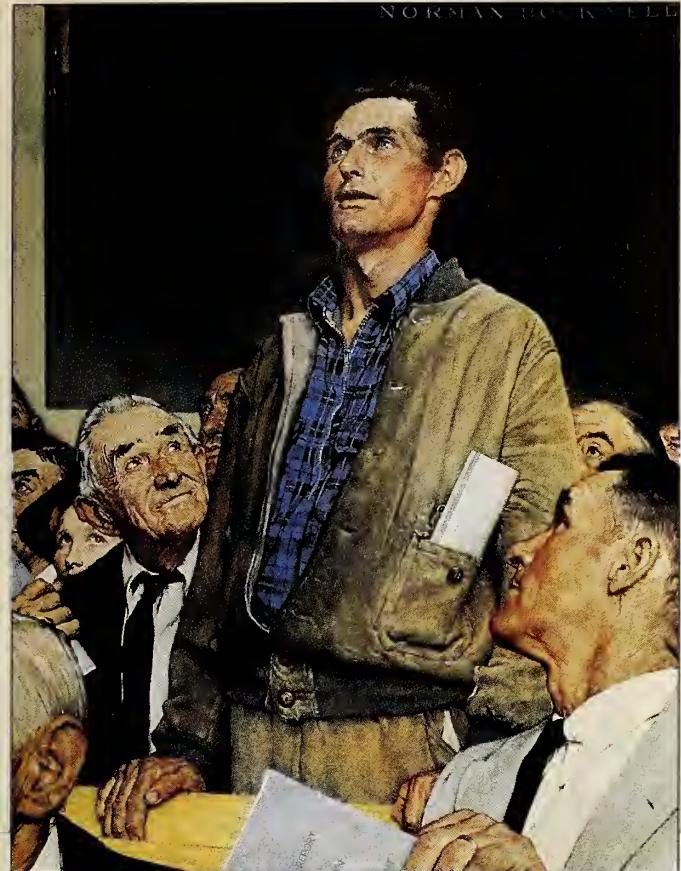


"Puppy Love"

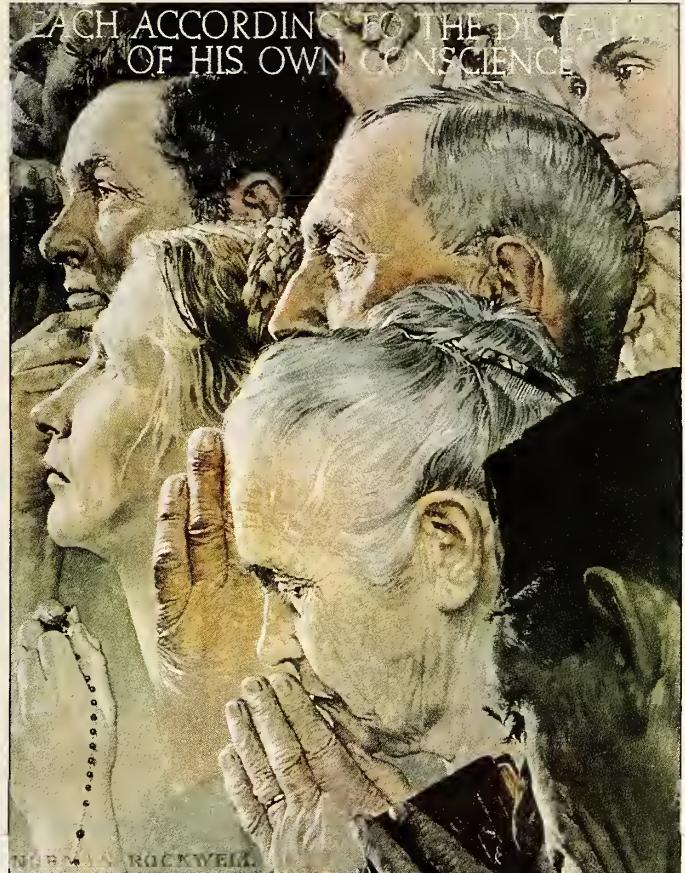


"Soldier with Children"

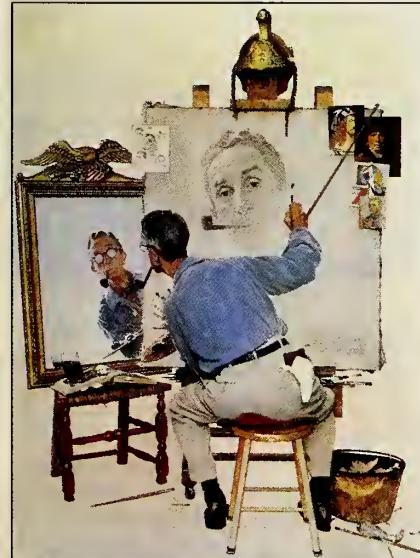
NORMAN ROCKWELL



"Freedom of Speech"



"Freedom of Worship"



"Triple Self-Portrait"

The Norman Rockwell Museum

LEGIONNAIRES are encouraged to support the Norman Rockwells Museum's National Campaign to build a new home for Rockwell's own original art, studio and archives. Your membership will ensure the protection and preservation of a national treasure—the famous paintings of America's most beloved artist.

Individual members receive the Four Freedoms portfolio (four 8x10 prints suitable for framing), newsletters, a membership card for mail-order discounts and an "NR" decal. Family members receive all of the above plus a valuable collectors' "NR" overseas-cap pin.

The American Legion Supports

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Museum at Stockbridge

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\$25 Individual Member

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HAS BIG BUSINESS

Much like a game of Monopoly gone mad, corporate America is engaged in a mania of mergers, hostile takeovers and activity that can best be described as fast and loose.

By Jay Stuller

IWE ARE in the midst of what some people describe as a "casino economy." The action is spectacular, astonishing and increasingly sordid. For the past few years, some American corporations and investment groups have been going after the stocks of other companies like rapacious sharks. Raising funds through the sale of "junk bonds," the corporate raiders hope that a takeover — or merely the threat of one, which boosts stock values — will help them make a financial killing.

In turn, targeted corporations sometimes adopt ethically dubious ploys. These include paying "greenmail" to buy off raiders; setting up "poison-pill" provisions to deter takeover groups; and launching expensive stock buybacks, which can burden a company with unproductive debt.

Last year, roughly 4,000 of the nation's largest companies were involved with mergers, acquisitions and stock buybacks; still more dug financial moats to hold off raiders. It is highly arguable whether this activity had much

DUCHAINE/MANHATTAN VIEWS



STOCK-MARKET FRENZY — The restructuring of American business, created largely by mergers and acquisitions, threatens to make or break the nation's economy.

to do with sound business practice, which usually includes fostering stability and productivity, and meeting foreign competition. Indeed, the so-called "restructuring" of American business is an intramural feeding frenzy that could make or break the nation's economy.

On one hand, merger mania suggests that some American corporations have concluded, since they can't beat Japan, they might as well kick the daylights out of one another. On the other hand,

some economic analysts believe that restructuring is the nation's only recourse for economic regeneration, a model of what economist Joseph A. Schumpeter described as "creative destruction." According to this theory, mergers and acquisitions are the best ways to ax poor corporate executives, trim flabby layers of management, and close unproductive and unprofitable operations.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Richard Darman said he believed that business

Jay Stuller, a San Francisco-based journalist, writes frequently on economic conditions in America.

GONE HAYWIRE?

efficiency "is a white-collar problem even more than a blue-collar problem." There's no question that many U.S. corporations have developed corpulent bureaucracies. During the past four years, merger and corporate-streamlining activity has sent up to 1 million management workers packing, some into early retirement, others into the street. Another 250,000 executives could lose their jobs before the decade ends.

The cuts, however, affect workers at all levels. Restructured USX Corp. will close four plants soon, laying off 4,000 steel workers. To keep up with slimmer competitors, United Airlines is reducing its manpower by 1,000. Even International Business Machines Corp. is pruning its U.S. work force by 7 percent.

Not all restructuring is merger-related. The realities of slow business growth and tough foreign competition are driving all American industries in this direction. Some corporations are slashing payrolls and closing plants in hopes of becoming, as the chief executive officer (CEO) of one Fortune 500 company said, "more agile, more competitive and more flexible." But the takeover craze has put urgency into the process.

Since government is doing little to encourage companies to streamline, industry is taking the lead, explained Jim Farley, senior chairman of Booz, Allen & Hamilton Inc., a business-consulting firm. "This is our own reindustrialization policy," he said. "It is revitalizing U.S. industry."

But if this sounds high-minded, consider some of the other players in the game. With apologies to the late President Calvin Coolidge, the business of America may no longer be business. The business of America, at least in the 1980s, may well be investment banking.

Indeed, it's becoming clear just how great a role investment bankers are playing in hostile takeovers. In past mergers and deal-making, investment bankers were conduits between the users and suppliers of capital. Today, these advisers and middlemen are far more active,

encouraging deals that earn them handsome consulting fees. In fact, a few investment bankers are making moves that put unwilling companies and even trusting clients into play.

It's this very tactic that led to the Ivan Boesky scandal, a multimillion-dollar criminal affair that only hinted at an incredible amount of insider trading. By law, one cannot profit from information about a private corporation's plans before that information is in the public domain.

Working off hunches and in response to rumors is a routine part of stock trading. "Arbitragers" such as Boesky speculate in stocks, which is perfectly legal if their moves are based on public information. But through investment banker Dennis Levine, Boesky learned in advance that certain companies were takeover targets, and he purchased their

BAD management is one thing, but American business also seems to be experiencing a crisis of ethics.

stocks low, cashing out big when the takeover attempts pushed stock values high.

As the Securities and Exchange Commission uncovers more inside traders, it will become increasingly obvious that with all the information floating around Wall Street, the small individual investor sometimes faces a rigged game. He may still come out ahead — if he's lucky and makes the right guess on when to buy and sell a particular stock. But in terms of fairness and aboveboard play, the small investor sometimes is no better off than he would be in a game of three-card monte.

Given all this and the emerging prob-

UNFAIR — *Unlawful use of inside information by unethical Wall Street traders stacks the game heavily against thousands of American small investors.*



lems stemming from deregulation, it's natural to wonder whether American business has gone haywire. As Asian and European corporations continue to develop better products at better prices, one must question the priorities of U.S. industry.

When managers and executives are forced to take steps that increase the value of their company's shares, and grow preoccupied with warding off raiders and keeping their jobs, who is served? The stockholders in the short term, perhaps. But suppliers, customers and employees suffer. Explained Andrew Sigler, Champion International's chief executive: "There is intense pressure for current earnings. So the message is 'Don't get caught with major [long-term] investments. Do all the things we used to consider bad management.' "

Bad management is one thing, but American business also seems to be experiencing a crisis of ethics. Consider the business-school dean and private investor who groused that he can no longer make transactions over the telephone "because people do not keep their word." And to paraphrase the old malapropism, even contracts aren't always worth the paper they're written on. A partner in one major investment banking firm admitted, "Writing, itself, is subject to interpretation."

Hostile-takeover and merger activity has sent waves of cash smashing into the ethical foundations of business with a fury that's bound to cause some erosion in clients' trust. An investment banker ostensibly is supposed to keep what a client says in confidence, but it's become clear that when cash is at stake,

Please turn to page 48

Yes, Santa, There Is A Virginia

By Skip Boyer

THE warm gaslight was glistening on tiny tears that spotted his daughter's cheeks when Dr. Philip O'Hanlon finally arrived home that evening in September 1897.

It had been a long day. Of course, for a coroner's physician in New York City at the turn of the century, most days were long. After the weary, bone-jarring streetcar ride home, a quiet evening with his family and his favorite newspaper were really what he had in mind.

Eight-year-old Virginia's tears changed his plans. Leaving his newspaper by his chair, he sat down by Virginia and held her. The blue-eyed doctor put on his best bedside manner and inquired as to the nature of the problem.

Between snifflies, the story came out. Christmas was coming, and Virginia, as always, was beginning to anticipate the holiday and the visit from Santa Claus. She had been good all year, and she had been excited — until today. Some of her little friends at school had told her that there was no Santa Claus and laughed to think that she still believed in the red-and-white-clad myth.

"I want to know," she told her father. "Is there really a Santa Claus?"

O'Hanlon blustered a moment, scratched his mustache, cleared his throat — and didn't have the faintest idea what to say to his teary-eyed daughter.

Then he had a flash of inspiration.

Skip Boyer, a former journalism teacher, is managing editor of *Quarterly*, a Best Western publication. (Reprinted by permission)

*The little girl
who asked if Santa
was real wrote
another letter
when she grew up.
But this one
needed no reply.*

"Write a letter to the *Sun*," he told her. O'Hanlon was an avid reader of *The New York Sun*'s daily question-and-answer column and frequently wrote letters to the paper himself. "If you see it in the *Sun*, it's so," he told his worried daughter.

So little Virginia O'Hanlon sat down with her pencil and a sheet of school paper, and wrote a letter to one of America's journalistic giants.

"Dear Editor, I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in the *Sun*, it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia's letter arrived on the desk of *Sun* Editor Edward P. Mitchell, who pondered it for a while and then called one of the paper's gifted editorial writers into his office. "Answer this," he ordered the writer.

Francis Pharcellus Church stared at the letter in disbelief, his walrus mustache bristling. Then he left the office, shaking his head. Church was an important writer. He had covered the Civil War for *The New York Times* and founded the *Army and Navy Journal*, as well as *The Galaxy*, one of the better literary publications of its day. Responding to

the foolish question of a small child was not his idea of a worthy assignment.

On Sept. 21, 1897, Virginia's letter and Church's response were published at the heart of the *Sun*'s editorial page. Church had done something that Mitchell hadn't expected: He had taken the question of Santa Claus seriously. Santa was more than presents under a tinsel-covered tree on Christmas morning, Church wrote; Santa was one of those real things that neither children nor men can see.

The letter and response quickly became part of the American Christmas tradition. The *Sun* reprinted the editorial each holiday season until that great paper ceased publication. Each year, however, in countless newspaper stories and magazine articles such as this one, the memory of a childish question and its loving response is revived.

THE story doesn't end here. Little Virginia grew up and went to college, earning a degree from Hunter College in 1910 and another from Columbia University a year later. As Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas, she had a long, honored career as an educator in the New York City school system. She worked with children all her life, at one time serving as principal of a school that held classes in hospitals for chronically ill children.

She also wrote another letter about Santa Claus.

Her second letter, dated Sept. 21, 1937 — the 40th anniversary of the publication of Church's editorial — was published in a small book issued by Grosset and Dunlap. The letter tried to answer the question of Santa's existence for a new generation of Virginians. At the peak of her career as an educator, a grown-up Virginia wrote:

Please turn to page 51



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

By Edward Edelson

SOMETHING extraordinary happened in the field of nutrition during the past decade. Researchers generally agreed on the kind of diet most people should follow to reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer—America's biggest killers.

Even the government's *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* are beginning to get grudging approval from parts of the food industry that once derided them, and experts on cancer and heart disease are making positive recommendations about the diet.

"When it comes to diet, we're all saying about the same thing," said Dr. Basil Rifkind of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Luise Light, a nutrition specialist at the National Cancer Institute, agreed. "We feel that our dietary recommendations are consistent with those of the heart institutes," he said. "The differences are really a matter of detail."

There's one other notable point: Most Americans can adopt this diet without making wrenching changes in their lifestyles. The experts are asking us to trim some of the fat here, cut back on the salt there, and eat more fruits and vegetables instead of cookies and candy.

The breakthrough consensus occurred in 1980, when the departments of Agriculture and Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) issued their first dietary guidelines.

The guidelines were phrased in general terms: avoid too much fat, saturated fat and cholesterol; eat foods that contain

Health-conscious Americans can reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer without drastic changes in eating habits.



adequate starch and fiber; avoid too much sugar and sodium.

Nonetheless, they provoked a major outcry from the meat and dairy industries, which felt that their fat- and cholesterol-rich products were being denounced on the basis of inadequate scientific information.

BUT in the years since, those findings have been supported by new research on the relationship between what we eat and the way we die. For example, a federally sponsored study found that every 1 percent decrease in blood cholesterol means a 2 percent decrease in the risk of death from heart attack. Also, experts have determined that Americans on a high-fat diet have a high rate of colon cancer, while Japanese, who consume little fat, are less subject to colon cancer. However, the Japanese have a high incidence of stomach cancer, which is on the decline here.

"We don't believe that we have the last word about the relationship between cancer and diet, but we do feel there is enough evidence to support making public recommendations at this time," Light said. Some specific recommendations:

- Reduce your total fat intake to 30 percent of total calories, from the cur-

rent American average of 40 percent. Both heart and cancer associations agree on this point.

- Try to limit your intake of saturated fats, the kind found in marbled meats and whole-milk products. Instead, substitute unsaturated or monosaturated fats, found in chicken, fish and vegetable oils. A rule of thumb: If it's solid, it's saturated fat; if it's liquid, it's unsaturated fat. This also is a joint heart-cancer recommendation.

- Cut back to no more than 300 milligrams of cholesterol a day. Cholesterol is found in meat, dairy products and eggs; 300 milligrams is roughly the amount in one egg. This is a heart recommendation, designed to reduce the risk of coronary attack by preventing hardening of the arteries.

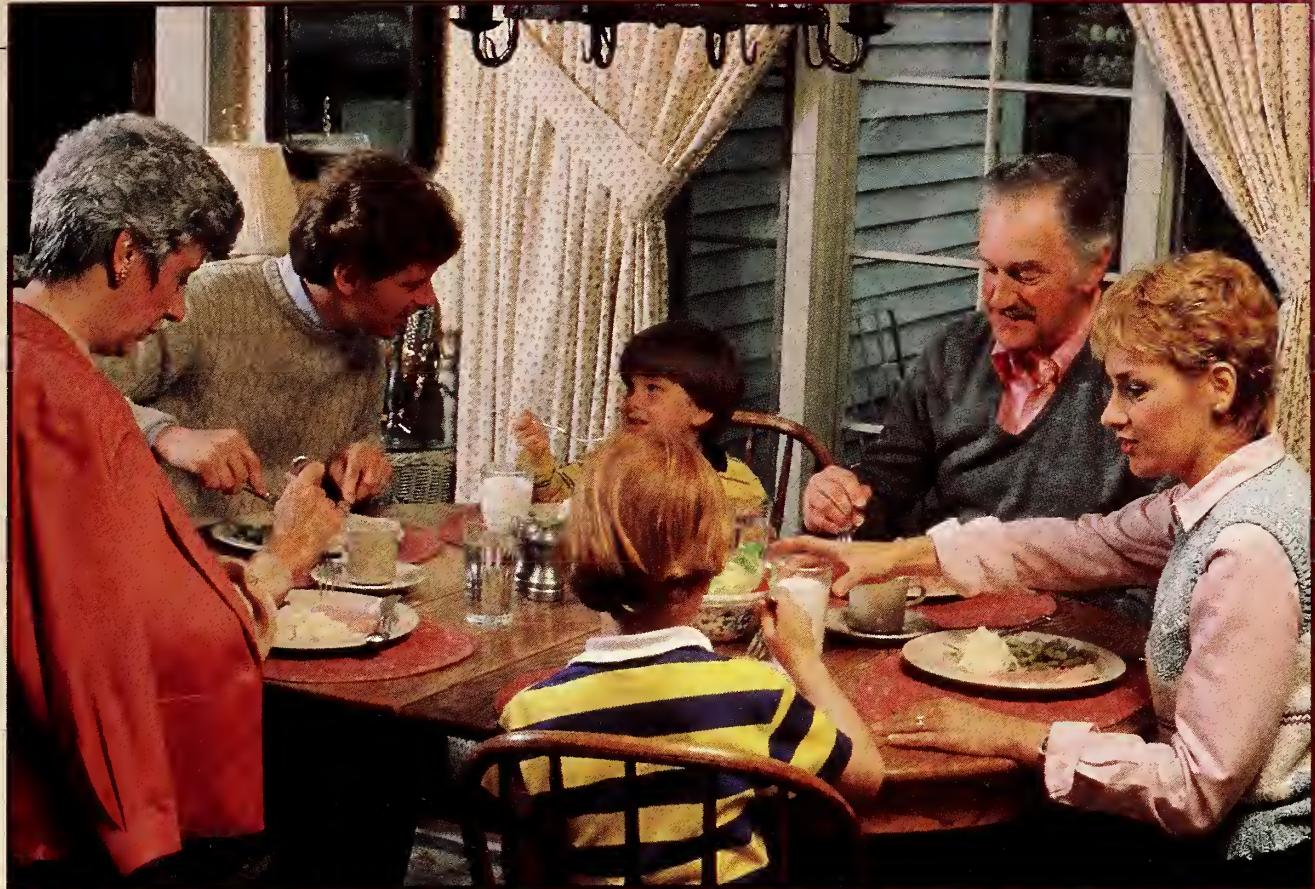
- Increase your carbohydrate intake to about 50 percent of total calories. Choose complex carbohydrates — the kind found in pasta, whole-grain breads, fruits and vegetables — rather than the simple sugars found in sweets.

The heart experts want Americans to eat more carbohydrates mostly to replace the calories they would otherwise get from fats. Cancer researchers, meanwhile, would like Americans to increase their intake of fiber — the residue of food that passes through the intestinal tract undigested — because there are strong hints that fiber may help prevent colon cancer. They also are intrigued by studies indicating that carbohydrates rich in vitamin A (dark-green leafy vegetables, for example) and vitamin C (citrus fruits) might offer some protection against cancer.

- Cut back on salt as much as possible. Many experts feel that you'd be well off to just throw away the saltshaker, since there are more-than-ample amounts of salt in processed foods. The main component of salt is sodium, which has been associated with the risk of stroke.

- Stay away from salt-cured and

Edward Edelson, an editor and writer for a major metropolitan daily newspaper, specializes in science and medicine writing.



CORSTOCK

ABSENT SALTS — Doctors claim Americans can set a healthier table if they forget the saltshaker. Processed foods contain ample salt.

smoked foods, such as sausages, ham and bacon. The heart experts don't like the salt, while the cancer experts suspect that these foods increase the risk of stomach and esophageal cancer.

Remember that these one-size-fits-all recommendations might have to be adjusted for specific people and age groups. They are, said Dr. Myron Winick, director of Columbia University's Institute of Human Nutrition, "for the general public with no specific disease."

There's some disagreement about whether to include children in the guidelines, Winick noted. The American Academy of Pediatrics has expressed doubt, saying that rigorous applications of the recommendations might adversely affect children's normal growth and development. "But they do say there is too much saturated fat in the diets of all Americans, including children," Rifkind said.

Light noted that the cancer institute's recommendation for increased fiber intake "might be excessive for a small child. The issue has to be examined before we make a recommendation for children," he said.

At the other end of the age spectrum, each person has individual needs, Winick said. "We're certainly not as

concerned about preventing heart disease in a person who's 80 and in good health as in someone who is 60 and in a high-risk category," he said.

Rifkind agreed that rigorous application of the guidelines to all older people might have some harmful effects. "Eggs are a useful source of protein,"

THERE are two types of people in the world — those who live to eat and those who eat to live. Which one are you?

••••••••••

he said. "We'd be hesitant to say that older people should shy away from them."

There are controversies about many other recommendations. For example, some studies indicate that sodium does not increase stroke risk for some people, while other research has found

that dietary calcium, which is found in dairy products, can reduce the incidence of stroke. Also, the relationship between vitamin intake and cancer protection is not clear. Maybe it's the vitamins in the fruits and vegetables that provide protection, the experts said — or maybe it's something else. That's why they recommend against gulping vitamin pills or other high-dose supplements.

Still, it's surprising how widely accepted the guidelines have become. At a recent American Heart Association meeting, members ate beef provided by the meat industry — with the blessing of the heart association. The beef was a special lean kind that contains only 7 percent fat, compared with the 18 percent found in fast-food hamburgers. Diners found the meat palatable, but on the dry side. For the heart association, this was a way of coaxing beef-eating Americans toward a prudent diet. For the beef industry, the motivation was simple: If you can't beat them, join them.

More important, Rifkind said, a growing number of people, including doctors, are accepting the dietary guidelines. "A shift in eating habits is taking place," he said. "But we still have some distance to go." □

One of every four Americans frequently feels extremely lonely. Fortunately, for most people loneliness is like a headache—irritating but not disabling.

By Phyllis Zauner

*All the lonely people—
Where do they all come from?
...Lennon and McCartney*

EVERYONE has occasional bouts of loneliness. But lately, warning flags are going up, indicating that we're approaching a loneliness epidemic. Too many people are lonely too much of the time.

In one nationwide study, one-fourth of Americans admitted that they frequently feel extremely lonely and remote from other people. In another poll, taken by the magazine *Psychology Today*, loneliness was the complaint most frequently mentioned.

We live in a changing culture in which it's getting harder and harder to "reach out and touch someone." Divorce, mobility, living alone, uprootedness — these have now become middle-class norms in the United States. Statistics tell the story.

- One of every three adults is single. Eight million men — divorced, separated or never married — now live by themselves.

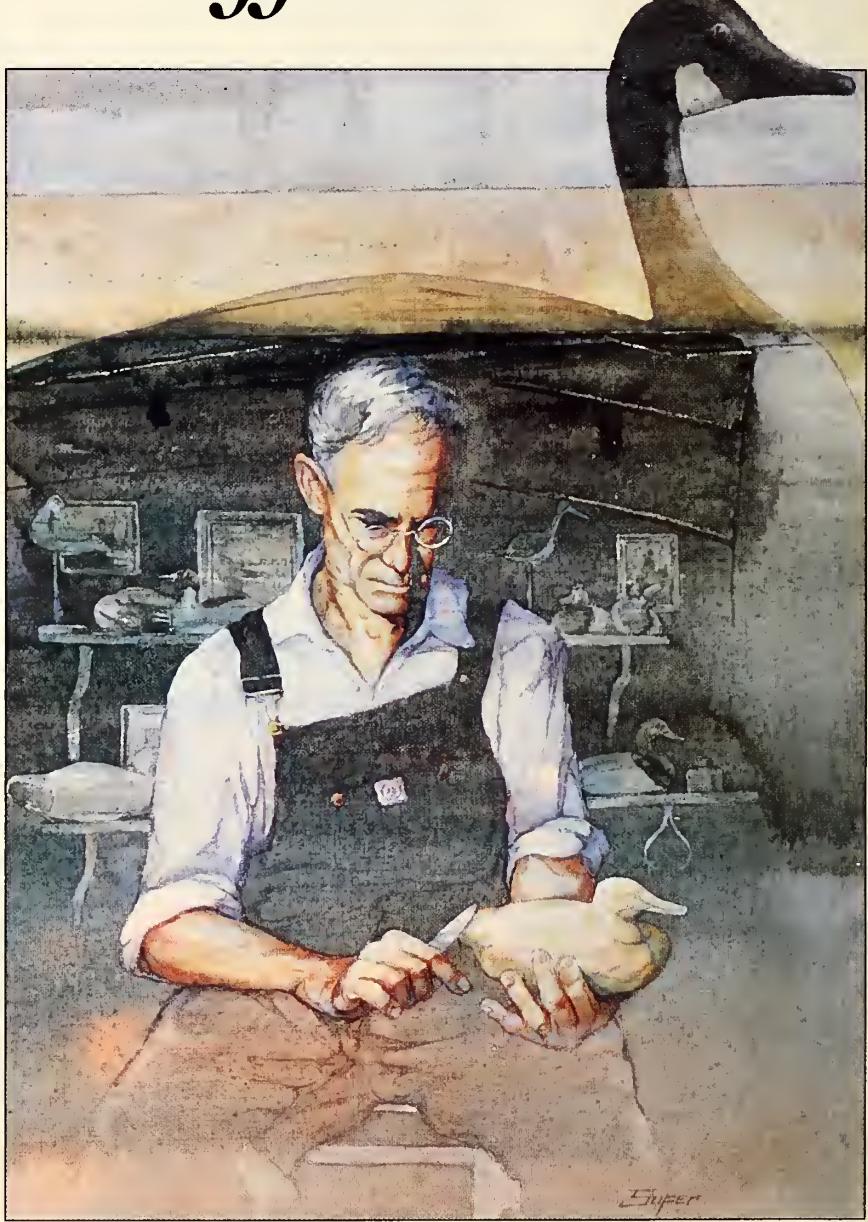
- Once, the model family was depicted on television's "Father Knows Best." Many people like to think that this model could still be real — but it isn't. Divorce has stricken half the marriages in this country, setting family members adrift.

- Men who thought they were situated in their jobs for life have been fired, forced into early retirement, let go when the factory closed or sent away when the farm went into receivership.

Phyllis Zauner, a Sacramento-based author of more than 400 articles, writes on social conditions in America.

LONELINESS

A Growing Affliction



PLEASURES OF SOLITUDE — While companionship is a common cure for loneliness, being alone doesn't necessarily have to mean you're lonely.

"You feel lonely," said one man, "not just for the people you knew, but because you're really out in the cold."

- Community ties, which once bonded people, are unraveling. We now live in impersonal cities and shop in impersonal supermarkets, and we may not even know the name of a next-door neighbor.

On top of that, an enormous amount of technology seems to have made it unnecessary for one human being ever to have to ask anything of another. Television, computers and automated cash machines allow us to do alone what we used to do with others. The machines don't cause isolation, but they make it easy to drift away from making contact with others.

All of this is beginning to greatly concern sociologists. Not long ago, loneliness was regarded as being "a kind of Antarctica of the soul," according to Dr. Robert S. Weiss, a professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts. Weiss was one of the few who investigated the topic in the 1960s, but his work sparked a mini-revolution in the research world, and in the past decade we have learned a great deal about modern loneliness.

Some of the findings of recent research on loneliness:

- Adolescents and young adults are the loneliest. Contrary to general belief, we grow less lonely with age.

- People who have low self-esteem and unreasonably high expectations seem to be most subject to long bouts with loneliness.

- Women complain more about being lonely than men do, but men seem to suffer more when they are left on their own.

- Loneliness is dangerous. The divorced and widowed have much higher mortality rates than the general population, and they are much more self-destructive.

In his book, *The Broken Heart*, psychologist James Lynch presented persuasive evidence that social isolation, sudden loss of love and chronic human loneliness are significant contributors to premature death. Statistics showed, for example, that the death rate from heart disease is 2.5 times greater for divorced 40-year-old men than married men the same age. In fact, the death rate for all ailments is higher for the single, divorced and widowed — especially men.

"The price we pay for our failure to understand our biological need for love and human companionship ultimately

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE

LONELINESS is a complex problem. But with strong determination, you can make it go away. Here's some useful advice from psychologists and from those who have been there and come back.

- The first step is to acknowledge the problem — to yourself and then to selected friends. One of the most satisfying results of raising the issue with friends is receiving confirmation of just how universal the problem is. The modern world is filled with lonely people, and we all need one another.

- Next, get out and meet people. Be aggressive in seeking out friendships.

- Loneliness is better treated indirectly than directly, by becoming involved in community or social activities. Opportunities for volunteering abound, but the best are those that offer socializing as a byproduct. Community acting groups need prop handlers and wardrobe helpers; barbershop quartets need tenors; political campaigners need stamp-lickers; libraries need aides.

- Sports bring people together and lead to friendships. Sign up for a spot in a bowling league; become a companion/guide for a blind skier; take up croquet.

- Join a service club; go to its meetings and serve on its committees. That's how you meet people.

- Initiate social contacts. Don't sit back and expect that other people will always come to you. Even the

may be exacted in our own hearts and blood vessels," Lynch said. "Human dialogue is the elixir of life."

Lynch cited a report issued by the surgeon general's office in 1973 which revealed that the most significant product of World War II military psychiatry was the recognition of the buddy system's stabilizing influence. "Repeated observations indicated," the report stated, "that the absence of such sustaining influences, or their disruption during combat, was mainly responsible for psychiatric breakdown in battle. Such group or relationship phenomena explained marked differences in the psychiatric-casualty rates of various units exposed to a similar intensity of battle stress."

most kitchen-wary man can learn to barbecue steaks and invite couples over for a Sunday afternoon.

- Churches also offer a number of social groups.

- You can travel with a tour group and see the world. One woman in her late 60s received two proposals of marriage, both from men she met on opera tours of Europe.

- Realize that loneliness is tied to self-esteem. If you like yourself, you'll be more attractive to others.

- Both men and women will benefit from socializing with women, who generally are more empathetic and warmer than men.

- Fellowship lies in talking to strangers. Where else but among strangers can we find new friends?

- Evaluate the way you relate to others. Some lonely people have trouble listening to others. When they engage in conversations, they often turn potential friends off, either by monopolizing the discussion or by not speaking.

- Don't hesitate to seek professional help if you've been lonely for a long time and can't seem to overcome the feeling by yourself. Family counselors are listed in the telephone directory, and many churches have psychologists available to help.

- Above all, be patient with yourself and persistent in your efforts. Loneliness is a deep, dark hole, but you can change whatever has made you feel friendless and empty inside.

Lynch concluded that those who lack the companionship of another human being may well lack one of nature's most powerful antidotes to stress.

Perhaps nowhere is that stress more pervasive — and less alleviated by companionship — than metropolitan inner cities. The Rev. Donald Stuart, San Francisco's "night minister" for 10 years, walked the streets of the Tenderloin district nightly, helping that seedy neighborhood's desperately poor old folks, bewildered new immigrants and street people find shelter, food and comfort. "It's a place of broken dreams, of strangers rubbing elbows," he said, "where everyone is lonely."

Still, he found the same malaise
Please turn to page 50

Veterans who have fallen behind in their GI home-loan mortgage payments should contact the VA for assistance, said VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage.

"We can help the veteran avoid losing the family home or equity in a home through foreclosure," Turnage said. The first step a veteran should take is to contact the lender and make arrangements to bring the loan up to date. If an agreement with the lender cannot be reached, the veteran should seek assistance from the nearest VA regional office.

VA counselors sometimes can develop a payment plan that will be acceptable to the mortgage company. As an alternative, VA counselors may advise the veteran to sell the property to protect the veteran's equity.

The VA warned that if a foreclosure occurs, the veteran's credit rating will be seriously damaged, and the VA will go after the veteran for the \$27,500 it lost to the lender for guaranteeing the loan.

A veteran who sells property backed by VA loans should obtain a release of liability from the VA when the buyer assumes the mortgage. VA officials said that the closing on the house should not take place until the veteran is satisfied that the buyer has met the VA's credit and income requirements for a release of liability. Veterans also are cautioned about buyers who want to pay the delinquent mortgage payments or to offer a small sum of money for the veteran's equity in the property in return for a quitclaim deed. In many cases, VA officials said, these buyers rent the property but do not make payments, and the veteran owner ends up owing the lender and the VA.

Third-party reimbursement isn't living up to expectations, and The American Legion has been quick to remind the nation of that fact. Recent figures released by the VA show that during the first half of FY 1987 less than \$4 million has been added to the U.S. Treasury as a result of billing insurance companies for VA care provided to certain veterans.

In 1986 Congress passed third-party-reimbursement legislation that allows the VA to bill insurance companies for VA care provided to veterans without service-connected disabilities and to charge those with incomes above certain levels for a portion of that care. The Office of Management and Budget, viewing the plan as a quick step to reduce the budget deficit, predicted that by requiring veterans to help pay for their medical care the government would collect an additional \$65 million in FY 1987 and \$250 million in FY 1988.

The Legion questioned those figures at the time, and results of the reimbursement program so far support those doubts. As of July 31, 1987, the VA billed insurance companies \$64 million and collected \$14 million, or about 22 percent. In any event, a Legion spokesman pointed out, the money does not go to the VA; it goes to the federal treasury to offset the national debt. Therefore, veterans are not helping to pay for their medical care. They are paying for budgetary mistakes that have compounded over the years.

The Legion has steadfastly opposed third-party reimbursement because the majority of users of VA facilities are the

nation's oldest, poorest and sickest veterans, who do not have health insurance or the money to seek care elsewhere. That Legion claim is borne out by the latest VA statistics, which show that only 3 percent of VA patients have some medical insurance or enough money to pay a cost-sharing portion of their care, 3 percent don't have enough income to pay for care and 94 percent are entitled to care without charge.

The Legion also predicted that the costs of administering third-party reimbursement would negate any income to the government and patient care would be adversely affected by the need to hire additional administrative help at the expense of badly needed medical personnel. The VA has estimated it will take nearly 800 people to administrate the plan. "A bill collector is a poor substitute for an X-ray lab technician, and the VA will save no money if it is forced to hire both," a Legion official said.

T

he Senate has passed and sent to the House an amendment that would require the military to provide the VA with free medevac flights for veterans. Co-sponsored by senators Frank Murkowski of Alaska and Pete Wilson of California, and actively supported by The American Legion, the amendment would eliminate the requirement that the VA reimburse the military for transporting veterans on military medevac aircraft when flown on a space-available basis.

Wilson said the legislation, an amendment to the FY '88 DoD Authorization Bill, would save taxpayers money as well as make specialized medical care more available to veterans. "On Sept. 30 a veteran from Omaha, Neb., was flown to the VA Medical Center in San Francisco for treatment for a defibrillating pacemaker, a process unique to the VAMC," Wilson said. "Under current law, the VA had to reimburse the DoD at a rate equal to that of first-class fare on commercial airlines, plus \$1, to fly the veteran from Omaha to San Francisco. This practice results in a gross waste of government funds."

The amendment calls for more efficient use of government equipment, Wilson said. "But more important, it would provide those who served our country access to better health-care services."

L

Legion efforts continue in support of legislation that would elevate the VA administrator to Cabinet-level status. At last count, more than 240 members of Congress supported H.R. 1707, which would upgrade the VA to department level and secure a Cabinet position for its administrator.

Similar legislation, S. 533, has received strong support in the Senate. Capitol Hill sources said the legislation has an excellent chance of passing because of its strong bipartisan support and the fact that there is little or no cost involved.

The Legion long has contended that the VA administrator should have a clear channel to the President on matters pertaining to veterans. □

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RAISING FUNDS FOR POST GROWTH



EGIONNAIRES have to be among the best fund-raisers in the country," said Dominic D. DiFrancesco, chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee.

"Name a fund-raising activity, and it's a cinch that at least one of the 16,000 American Legion posts is using it or has used it. A post's value to its community hinges on its ability to raise money for programs supporting veterans, children and youths; programs that help the needy; and other worthwhile community projects," DiFrancesco said.

Few Legionnaires, however, need DiFrancesco or anyone else to remind them that fund raising is a basic fact of life for every post, large or small, whether it's in North Carolina, Kansas or California. Post vitality depends on it; successful fund-raising activities support the community-oriented pro-

The success of any post depends on raising funds to support community needs and attract new members.



grams that attract new members.

Methods of fund raising vary from the common cookout to the complex direct-mail solicitation by which the Los Angeles County Council of The American Legion recently collected more than \$121,000 to support programs for veterans and their dependents.

Many fund-raising activities in North Carolina involve food and fairs. There's always a large turnout for post-sponsored functions that feature chicken-and-dumpling stew, Brunswick stew

and barbecue. Franklinton Post 52 conducts an annual "Chitlin' Strut," while Waynesville Post 47 offers a "Ramp Festival" as its chief money-maker. (A ramp is an onionlike vegetable that grows wild in North Carolina.) Meanwhile, Dunn Post 59 owns and operates a four-county fair; Edenton Post 40, Hickory Post 48 and Jacksonville Post 265 sponsor other annual fairs.

In Louisville, Ky., Highland Post 201 will sponsor its 36th carnival for the mentally impaired. The total proceeds amount to nearly \$1 million.

Droody-Cain Post 145, Leesville, La., likes to use an auctioneer to raise money for Boys State and other programs. One donated cake sold for \$100.

The big fund-raiser for Leo Brinda Post 90, Valentine, Neb., is a pancakes-and-sausage feed, followed by an evening dinner-dance that usually earns \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the post's Easter-egg hunt, summer baseball and Boys State.

In the Department of Illinois, Fairmont City Post 961 holds a picnic and turkey shoots in support of its children-and-youth softball and soccer teams, Christmas party and Special Olympics. Fred Herring Post 89, Metamora, makes money with monthly dances; Robert F. Arnold Post 172 of Marissa conducts a two-day picnic, an all-you-can-eat "Wurstmart" and a bass-fishing tournament; and Andover Post 465 holds Sunday pancake breakfasts and dinners. At Arnold Pedersen Post 533, Cuba, it's bingo that keeps things running; about \$10,000 in bingo proceeds goes each year to support community projects such as Families in Need. Post 32 in Springfield operates a refreshment tent at the state fair, and conducts a turkey shoot, harvest-time dinner, chili dinner and dinner-dance to raise funds for the "Make-A-Wish" program, which grants a special wish to a terminally ill child.

GETTING STARTED

- **Plan thoroughly.** Don't wait until the last moment to organize an event. Last-minute arrangements often result in the post's losing money or, much worse, members and prestige.

- **Make sure it's legal.** Before lifting a finger, check with local and state authorities on the legality of a proposed fund-raising activity.

- **Learn from the past.** Review records of previous fund-raising activities to study proven methods of success and to avoid pitfalls.

- **Make sure it's profitable.** As a general rule, the projected cost of an event never should be higher than 50 percent of the projected income. That way, when an event is only 50 percent successful, it will pay for

itself and still generate public-relations value.

- **Get enough help.** Don't try to run the show by yourself. It's always better to have more help than not enough, since no one will be overworked, and more members will have the fun and satisfaction of participating.

- **Keep it simple.** The more complex or elaborate the fund-raising idea, the more people and planning are necessary to pull it off, and the greater the possibility of a snafu.

- **Keep it in good taste.** Make sure the fund-raising activity will not discredit the post or The American Legion. If you're not sure, check it out with your district or department.



SELECT YOUR PROJECT CAREFULLY

POSTS that are eager to adopt the successful fund-raising activities of other posts should exercise caution, according to Adj. Barry J. Synder of the Department of Oregon.

"Whereas an old-fashioned ice-cream social could be a great hit in a retirement village in Phoenix, Ariz., in August, it most likely would be a flop in a community of young adults in Nome, Alaska, in December," Synder said. "Although this example is a bit far-fetched, it does point out the inherent danger of one post's copying the activity of another post and expecting to have similar success."

Synder said size, post resources and the chemistry that exists among members play a significant part in the success or failure of any fund-raising activity. "It must also be remembered that state and local laws differ greatly; what is legal in one locality may not

be legal in another. This should receive your utmost attention when you organize a new money-raising project."

He cautioned that what appears to be a success at first may prove to be a failure in the long run. As a case in point, he cited his own post, which some years ago was given permission to operate a beer garden during an annual community festival.

For the first few years enthusiasm was high, and the post was making enough money from the festival alone to support all its community projects and Legion programs for the entire year. Then post membership began to sag. Old members were not renewing their memberships because the post had plenty of money and there wasn't any need to get involved in programs anymore. Getting new members was virtually impossible because no one was interested in an organization that

apparently did little else than run a beer garden each year.

What had happened? Synder's post, putting all its eggs in one basket, had become solely identified with its fund raising, instead of with the aims and policies of The American Legion.

In a desperate effort to turn things around, the post finally decided to give up the beer garden and return to other fund-raising programs.

"It worked. Our post has reached an all-time high in membership, and we are doing better every year, as everyone is working on our programs again," Synder said.

An invaluable lesson was learned. Posts never will lose the good will of their communities if they are known for all the fine things they do for veterans, children and the needy. How they raise money to support these good works never should become an issue. □

Last year the Department of Ohio collected more than \$200,000 in donations to the Gifts For the Yanks Who Gave program, which benefits patients in VA medical facilities. Post 92, Utica, holds fish fries; cake auctions; and raffles on cars, steers and pigs. In Middletown, local bowling alleys donate the use of their lanes for the Gifts For Yanks program; Post 554 usually donates between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to that program each year.

IN KANSAS, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and baseball programs are the primary beneficiaries of fund-raising activities. Some posts rent out their post homes for community and commercial projects. One post raises \$17,000 to \$20,000 each year by selling booster ads in souvenir baseball programs, and tickets for business and merchant outings.

Many posts conduct annual garage sales to help baseball teams and children-and-youth programs. Other posts sell Christmas trees. Another post sponsored a benefit dance that raised more than \$2,000 for a youngster who needed a liver transplant. Department-wide, direct solicitations for donations to the Hugh Smith Scholarship Fund are in

progress. Smith, past department finance officer and child-welfare director, died of a heart attack in April 1985.

Post 3, Flagstaff, Ariz., conducts dinner nights twice a year, each one netting \$1,000 or more; and Phoenix Post 1 holds dinners, dances and car washes to raise money.

In the nation's capital, raffles and the

sale of American flags and other patriotic items are big fund-raisers for the Department of the District of Columbia.

The list could go on and on. Whether the proceeds are \$200 or \$20,000, each post accepts its obligation to render what help it can through successful fund raising to supplement its voluntary service to the community. □



DAVID TAYLOR

IMAGE-MAKING — The methods in which posts raise funds often determine their reputations within their communities.

FALL MEETINGS

CWF Fund-raising Plan Approved As NEC Passes 41 Resolutions

MILLIONS of American youths will benefit from the \$1 million that Legionnaires will donate to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the coming year, Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer told NECmen at the 1987 Fall Meetings.

"In reaching this important goal of \$1 million, we will tell the children across this land that we care about them and that we care about their future," Comer said after the NEC passed Res. 41, which contains plans for the special fund-raising project. Dubbed "Foundation With A Future," the project is designed to increase the foundation's \$425,000 principal and thereby support future grants to youth organizations.

Since it began in 1954, the CWF has provided more than \$2 million in grants to organizations involved in research on children's diseases and education programs on young people's problems. On the first day of the 1987 meetings, the Department of New York set the pace when officials presented a \$5,000 check to Comer.

"The real beauty of this project is that we will raise the money together," Comer said. "The Legion, Auxiliary and all our organizations will rise to the occasion and ensure that our goal is met. And I can promise you this: The American Legion will be remembered for its efforts for a very long time."

In addition to supporting youth programs, the NEC also demonstrated its long-standing commitment to disabled veterans. In approving Res. 5, the NEC urged continued support of the VA's policy of treating veterans who have contracted AIDS, if they are eligible for care. The resolution stated that AIDS testing is solely a medical matter and should be decided by physicians.

"The Legion deplores the politiciza-

tion that has grown with the AIDS crisis," said William F. Lenker, chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. The Legion has already called on the VA to establish a separate account for AIDS treatment to avoid depleting funds of the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery.

The NECmen also were given an update on a Legion history book that currently is being written. PNC Al Keller, chairman of the committee overseeing the project, said sample chapters covering the Korean War era soon will be distributed to the NECmen for review. "This project has taken a lot of determination," Keller said, "and the author, Thomas Rumer, has done an excellent, good old-fashioned job of digging up the information."

Commission-chairman appointments made during the two-day meetings include James J. Charleston, Convention; William M. Detweiler, Foreign Relations; and Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Membership and Post Activities.

During the 1987 Fall Meetings, the NEC approved 41 resolutions.

- **Res. 1** authorizes the Legion to contract with Delta Air Lines for discounted airfare rates to 1988 National Convention in Louisville.
- **Res. 2** authorizes the purchase of word-processing and office-automation equipment.
- **Res. 3** directs that the Legion Employees' Salary Savings Plan be revised and amended to comply with tax laws.
- **Res. 4** adopts a cash-awards program for Legion posts that make significant contributions to disabled Americans, especially veterans.
- **Res. 5** supports VA medical treatment of veterans with AIDS.
- **Res. 6** urges the government to increase the limits set on the estates of veterans declared incompetent who are receiving care in government facilities.
- **Res. 7** urges the administration and Congress to fund research and development of a synthetic-fuels program.
- **Res. 8** calls on the government to encourage energy conservation through tax incentives and efficient technology.
- **Res. 9** requests that the Defense Reorganization Act be amended to change policies concerning joint-service tours for military officers.
- **Res. 10** urges the government to exercise its right of self-defense in international waters and to be prepared to retaliate against foreign interference or aggression.
- **Res. 11** rescinds obsolete Foreign Relations resolutions.
- **Res. 12** urges that U.S. trade with Iran be prohibited until the Iranian government demonstrates responsible and peaceful behavior.
- **Res. 13** authorizes withdrawal of Paid-Up-For-Life membership trust funds for administrative expenses.
- **Res. 14** accepts an estate bequest.
- **Res. 15** authorizes use of American Legion life insurance funds for the Department Service Officers School.
- **Res. 16** grants increased benefits in The American Legion life insurance plan for 1988.
- **Res. 17** authorizes reimbursement to The American Legion for life insurance expenses.
- **Res. 18** authorizes expenditures for participation of Junior Uniformed Musical Groups in the 1988 National Convention.
- **Res. 19** authorizes use of American Legion life insurance trust funds for scholarship awards to the Legion Boy Scout of the Year program in 1988.
- **Res. 20** authorizes use of American Legion life insurance trust funds for the Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.
- **Res. 21** authorizes use of American Legion life insurance trust funds for the Legion Baseball program.
- **Res. 22** authorizes use of American Legion life insurance funds for the Boys Nation program.
- **Res. 23** grants incentives to Legion officials who use "super saver" airfares for travel to national meetings in 1988.
- **Res. 24** urges religious leaders to display the American flag in churches and encourages use of the flag to drape veterans' caskets.
- **Res. 25** seeks legislation prohibiting the import of U.S. flags made overseas.
- **Res. 26** calls on the U.S. Postal Service to include a U.S. flag patch as part of postal employees' uniforms.
- **Res. 27** urges Legion departments to implement Junior Law Cadet and "Law and Order" programs.
- **Res. 28** changes regional tournament sites for the 1988 Legion Baseball program.
- **Res. 29** changes dates of the 1988 Legion Baseball World Series to Aug. 24-28.
- **Res. 30** changes dates of 1989 Legion Baseball World Series to Aug. 22-27.
- **Res. 31** seeks legislation to give the U.S. Office of Personnel Management the authority to enforce veterans'-preference rights in the U.S. Postal Service.
- **Res. 32** seeks to eliminate the sunset date on the definition of Vietnam-era veterans for the purpose of receiving employment and training services from the DoL.
- **Res. 33** authorizes temporary charters to foreign posts in the Philippines and England.
- **Res. 34** requests that a U.S. postage stamp be issued in honor of PNC Harry Colmery, architect of the G.I. Bill of Rights.
- **Res. 35** transfers Post 28 Okinawa from the Department of Hawaii to the Department of the Philippines.
- **Res. 36** supports the establishment of a Francis Scott Key memorial.
- **Res. 37-39** authorize the renovation of National Headquarters building in Washington.
- **Res. 40** revises the retirement plan of National Headquarters employees and staff.
- **Res. 41** authorizes a \$1-million fund-raising campaign for the Child Welfare Foundation.

The complete text of these resolutions may be obtained from the Archives, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

KNOW YOUR RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

By Donald E. Shasteen

THE laws protecting the work rights of the men and women who return to civilian life from the armed forces are as pertinent today as ever before.

For example, consider the experience of Jim Abernathy (not his real name), who recently returned to the company where he had worked four years before serving three years in the Army.

In quick succession he got his old job back, started work at wages higher than when he left, and had three years added to his seniority and pension plan for a total of seven years.

All three events happened because it's the law. The Office of Veterans Employment, Re-employment and Training in the U.S. Department of Labor oversees the rules that govern the treatment of veterans, and makes certain that they obtain their just and rightful due.

Abernathy's experience — typical of what happens to veterans who go back to work — wasn't all that certain until a few years ago. The Labor Department had to go to court through the Department of Justice to get veterans their rights.

The now-famous case of Raymond E. Davis, a retired power-company employee, concerned the amount of his pension benefits. His 30 months of military service during World War II had not been figured as part of his pension by the company. The litigation went all the way to the Supreme Court before Davis got his additional 30 months. It's the law.

In the case of David P. Ledbetter, the federal government took his employer to court after he was fired for informing

*Veterans
who return to their
pre-service jobs are
entitled to
longevity and
pension credits.*



TIME OUT TO SERVE — The law prescribes that veterans who serve no more than four years' active duty are entitled to get their old jobs back.

his company that he had to report for two weeks of summer duty with the National Guard. He got his job back. It's the law.

IN ANOTHER case, after William Hebes lost the sight in one eye from an exploding shell, his former employer wouldn't give him a chance to be an apprentice electrician and gave him a clerk's job rather than something comparable. His service-related injury was all that the court had to hear about before deciding in his favor. It's the law.

That law (Chapter 43, Title 38, U.S. Code) is absolutely clear. It provides that a veteran who has served not more than four years on active duty is entitled to return to his pre-service job. If the armed forces keep a person beyond the four-year period for their own convenience, then the service period can be extended to five years.

Donald E. Shasteen is the Department of Labor's assistant secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

Reservists and members of the National Guard have similar protections. All groups must meet the basic eligibility requirements of the law: that they left "other than temporary" employment, served satisfactorily and returned within the limits of the law, usually 90 days, with less time for reservists on training duty. Moreover, thanks to a law passed last year, it is now illegal for an employer to refuse to hire persons just because they are members of the Army Reserve or National Guard.

The Davis case underlines one important aspect of the law that is often overlooked, because it is a benefit that occurs usually many years later. That benefit is the right to count periods of military service toward credit for pensions provided by the employer.

In general, an employee entering military duty is considered to remain an employee of the employer during military service. This is so, under federal law, even if the employee signed a resignation or was terminated by the employer. Since the law considers the service member still employed, that service member continues to accrue seniority and longevity credit while in the service. Pension credit for military service is an essential part of the seniority benefit itself.

Pension credit does not stop, however, with credit for seniority. A necessary ingredient is that the individual actually receives those credits due his pension account that would have been made had he not been in military service. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1977 in *Alabama Power vs. Davis* that this requirement applied to defined-benefit pension plans and required the employer to pay into the pension fund those amounts that would have been paid had Davis been working.

More recent cases based on *Alabama Power* have extended the benefit to Please turn to page 47



Comer Testifies On Capitol Hill

Seeking 'What's Just and Proper For America's Veterans'

THE VA's shrinking share of the national budget threatens to eliminate or seriously cripple veterans' programs and services, Nat'l Cmdr. John P. "Jake" Comer has warned lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

"Contrary to the belief of those who point out that the VA budget continues to grow, veterans' programs are not consuming an increasing share of federal dollars," Comer said in recent testimony before the Senate and House Veterans Affairs committees. The VA's portion of the budget plummeted from 5 percent of the total in FY '75 to 2.5 percent for the current year, he said.

Comer told the committees that the Legion will continue its fight to preserve adequate funding for the VA, particularly in vital areas such as medical care. While pledging Legion support of the government effort to erase the staggering trillion-dollar deficit, he said veterans, nevertheless, should not be forced to bear unnecessary budget cuts.

"We have not sought and will not seek more than what is just and proper for America's veterans," Comer said.

With 200 Legion officials at his side,

Comer unveiled many of the organization's legislative mandates for 1987-88 — issues of major concern to veterans. The commander also reiterated the Legion's opposition to means testing and third-party reimbursement for veterans seeking VA medical treatment. The Legion stood alone in its opposition to both measures, claiming that they would hamper the delivery of care to the service-disabled and poor, and also would create an unnecessary workload for the VA.

"After more than a year of implementation of the means test, the statistics reveal that the overwhelming majority of applicants seeking health care from the VA are service-connected disabled and unable to pay for treatment," Comer said. The means test imposes income guidelines on VA health-care applicants and in some cases forces veterans to make co-payments for treatment.

Comer also chided the Centers for Disease Control for concluding that a study on the effects of Agent Orange exposure cannot be conducted because not enough servicemen had been exposed to the defoliant. "We felt a year

SPEAKING FOR VETERANS — Nat'l Cmdr. Comer urges congressmen to preserve adequate funding for the VA.

ago, as we do now, that the CDC had established unrealistic criteria, setting conditions which now seem to have shut down the study. I can assure you that The American Legion will press for answers on the potential ill-health effects of Agent Orange."

Another area of continuing concern to the Legion is the VA's handling of Vietnam veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. "One of the most persistent problems is that there are still VA adjudicators who are hesitant to grant service-connected disability compensation to veterans with PTSD, regardless of the amount of evidence on record," Comer said.

But Comer praised the VA's Vet Center program for its successful treatment of many PTSD victims. "This program continues to provide a valuable service," he said. Vet Centers, which operate at non-VA sites, provide counseling services to PTSD sufferers.

The commander expressed concern about America's surging population of aging veterans, a group comprised of nearly 10 million men and women age 65 and older. Comer commended the VA for developing programs such as nursing homes, hospices and adult day-care centers, which have helped meet the growing demands of aging veterans.

The commander warned committee members about the administration's recent attempts to transfer the responsibility of veterans' employment and job-training programs to the states, saying that federal devolution would have a devastating effect on veterans' preference in hiring and labor-exchange services. In addition, he urged the lawmakers to support retraining programs for dislocated workers, noting that dislocation is a most serious problem facing middle-age veterans in the labor force.

The bottom line is that America's veterans should receive the rights and benefits they have earned, Comer said. "I believe that I can speak for the nation's 28 million veterans in saying that we are grateful to the Congress and that we rely on it for the well-being of those who have suffered as a result of their service — those who are needy and the aged. It's a mutual trust between the government and its citizens." □

Love Of Family Filled His Life



Robert G. Blair

ROBERT G. Blair, 62, who served as National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Alaska since 1976, died Sept. 4, following a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife Donna and 28 children.

The Blairs were well known throughout Alaska and The American Legion for opening their home to orphaned and abandoned children from the Far East — a number that totaled 20 at the time of his death. Blair's duties as NECman took him throughout Asia, where he met many of the children who now live in his home in Kodiak. The Blairs also have eight children of their own.

"Many people talk about charity and compassion. Bob Blair lived it," said National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle. "His spirit and dedication as both a family man and Legionnaire were inspirational, and he'll be greatly missed." □

3,000,000



INSTILLING love of country...keeping the patients entertained...sending post children to college...honoring veterans with an avenue of flags...remodeling a nursing home.

If parents and 8th-grade students in Seneca, S.C., consider themselves fortunate, it's not without reason. Angela Blackston Hamilton, a history teacher at Seneca Junior High School, was named the 1987 South Carolina American Legion Teacher of the Year. Hamilton was nominated for the honor by Seneca Post 120. "She's a dynamic teacher," said Sam Tomlinson, the department's education chairman and a retired school principal. "Hamilton instills in her students a deep love for our country, respect for our heritage and keen awareness of the traditional values that have made America great."

When residents at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Fla., tune in to their favorite TV programs they



have Post 99 of Brooksville to thank. The post donated \$1,000 to the hospital to purchase color TV sets.

Educators at St. John's University in New York gave members of Queens Village Post 301 top marks in supporting higher education. The post has unveiled plans to establish a perpetual scholarship through a \$10,000 donation to the university. The interest derived from the invested scholarship is used to fund an annual partial scholarship. An applicant must be the child, grandchild or descendant of a Post 301 member. In accepting the donation, Joseph Sciame, St. John's vice president for financial aid, said, "The university has

long welcomed to its doors the veterans of our armed forces. This scholarship will encourage our young men and women who are the beneficiaries of a peacetime nation."

Folks in Forest, Ill., call it the "Avenue of Flags," and members of J.A. Folwell Post 174 definitely have made the difference in how the town remembers veterans. Two long rows of



3-by-5-foot American flags are hoisted over a cemetery each Memorial Day to commemorate those who died serving the nation. And on Veterans Day, the flags fly again in tribute to all veterans. Any veteran or anyone on behalf of a veteran is welcome to purchase a flag, and the former service member's name and military branch are inscribed on a roster located near the flags.

Members of John Bridges Post 15, Detroit Lakes, Minn., have pledged \$15,000 to remodel a 24-bed section of Emmanuel Nursing Home, which is developing special programs for persons with Alzheimer's disease and similar disorders. The post will donate \$5,000 for each of the next three years.



VETERANS ALERT

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Guidelines—Outfit Reunion notices are published for Legionnaires only and must be submitted on official forms. To obtain forms, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: O.R. Form, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Notices must be received at least seven months before reunions are scheduled and will be published only on a first-come, first-served basis.

Army

3rd Bn., Med. Det., 123rd Inf., 33rd Div. (Mar-Chicago) James Kerr, Box 181, Ft. Inn, SC 29644 (803) 967-7505
3rd Inf. Div., B Co., 3rd MD Bn. All Cos. (Mar-Las Vegas, NV) Ray Zimmerman, 2205 N. Summer St., Mesa, AZ 85203 (602) 833-6304
4th Inf. Div. Vets (Sunbelt Chapter) (Jan-Orlando, FL) William Head, 5725 W. Paul Bryant Dr., Crystal River, FL 32629 (904) 795-1170
11th Airborne Div. (Western States) (Mar-Fresno, CA) Charles Gunter, 2521 W. Grayville Dr., LaHabra, CA 90631 (213) 943-1436
16th Field Hospital (Apr-Nashville, TN) Herman Thompson, Rt. 2, Box 185, Ottumwa, IA 52501 (515) 938-2874
44th MP Co. (Mar-Decatur, IL) B.R. Smith, Rt. 1, Oreana, IL 62554 (217) 468-2049
96th Signal Bn. (Apr-Jackson, MS) Dennis Seward, Rt. 5, Box 246, Jackson, MS 39212 (601) 372-1187
107/112/254/522nd Engrs. (WWI-WWII-Nat'l Guard) (July-Marquette, MI) Ed Vickstrom, Box 390, Ishpeming, MI 49849 (906) 486-8731
116th Aslt. Helicopter (Nam) (Apr-St. Louis) Arthur Silacci, 485 W. Sierra, Clovis, CA 93612 (209) 299-7789
124th Ord. Bn., 2nd Arm'd Div., HQ & HQ Co. (1955-58) (Apr-Knoxville, TN) Fred Bull, Rt. 4, Box 427, Tazewell, TN 37879 (615) 626-5663
129th ABN Engrs., 13th ABN Div. (Mar-Palm Beach Gardens, FL) Robert Hansen, 552 Flottilla Rd., No. Palm Beach, FL 33408 (305) 842-9071
189th F.A. (Apr-Tulsa, OK) Art Corley, Rt. 1, Box 336, Big Cabin, OK 74332 (918) 782-9500
387th Inf. Rgt., 97th Div., F. Co. (Apr-Atlanta) William Woodruff, 978 N. Hills Dr., Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 634-3443
460th Engr. Dpt. Co. (Apr-Hampton, VA) James Draper, 25 Franklin Rd., Newport News, VA 23601 (804) 596-2512
526th QM Railhead Co. (Apr-Chattanooga, TN) George Vess Jr., 1007 Altamont Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37415 (615) 265-5297
555th Engr. Hv. Pont. Bn. (May-Chicago) Tom Moore, 148 E. Stevenson Dr., Glendale Hts., IL 60139 (312) 690-3083
645th Tank Destroyer Bn. (Apr-Tulsa, OK) T.J. Hunker Jr., Box 127, Wheatland, OK 73097 (405) 745-2433
805th Signal Serv. Co. (Apr-Atlanta) Eugene Major, 253 Windsong Ln., Lilburn, GA 30247 (404) 564-2929
1279th Engr. Bn., A Co. (1944-46) (Apr-Louisville, KY) William Hale Jr., Rt. 1, Box 195, Springfield, KY 40069 (606) 284-7791
COM-Z Atomities (WWII) (Jan-Pittsburgh) Irvin LaBoy, 134 Dale Rd., Willow Grove, PA 19090 (215) 659-2457
Officers of the 1st Div. (Apr-Washington) Linn Cini, Box 2331, Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 569-1938
QM Detach., Winter General Hosp. (Topeka-1943) (Apr-Tucson, AZ) Raymond Kent, Box 31762, Tucson, AZ 85751 (602) 296-4394

Navy

17th & 120th Seabees (Apr-French Lick, IN) Michael Meade, Box 1, Raub, IN 47976 (219) 474-5433
A.R.S.D. Navy 60 (Russell Islands, Solomons) (Mar-Niagara Falls, NY) Edward Devantier, 1115 91st St., Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (716) 283-9108
Patrol Craft Sailors Assn. (Mar-Jacksonville, FL) J.O. Durham, 3921 May Breeze Rd., Marietta, GA 30066 (404) 926-7430
USS Halford (Apr-San Diego) R.G. Williams, 7345 50th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 (206) 523-3435
USS Herndon DD 638 (Feb-Tampa, FL) Angus Schmelitz, 134 Bean Rivage Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32074 (904) 441-3917
USS Kleinsmith APD 134 (Apr-New Orleans) George Huddleston, 4031 Woodstock Dr., Lorain, OH 44053 (216) 282-7690
USS LSM 10 (WWII) (Apr-Americus, GA) Harry

Thompson, 1702 Armory Dr., Americus, GA 31709 (912) 924-2220

USS Manatee AO 58 (Apr-Winter Haven, FL) Eric Wien, Box 117C, Rt. 3, Surry, ME 04684

USS Milwaukee CL 5 (Apr-Clearwater, FL) Albert Hensley, 29 Roman Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314 (718) 761-8925

USS Navy Ferry Command (St. Louis, MO) (Apr-St. Louis) P.W. Schiller, 33 State St., Susquehanna, PA 18847 (717) 853-4594

USS Oyster Bay AGP 6 (Mar-Overland Park, KS) Don Pfannmiller, 10903 Reeder, Overland Park, KS 66210 (913) 469-6330

USS Patrocius ARV 19 (Apr-New York City) P.W. Schiller, 33 State St., Susquehanna, PA 18847 (717) 853-4594

USS PC Squadrons (Apr-Jacksonville, FL) Wesley Johnson, 6484 N. Park Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220 (317) 253-4801

USS Philippine Sea Assn. (Feb.) Chuck Davis, P.O. Box 597, Levittown, PA 19057

USS San Jacinto & CVL's (Apr-Pasadena, TX) Ed Hahnemann, 596 Willow St., Chincoteague, VA 23336 (804) 336-3322

USS San Jacinto CVL 30 (WWII) (Jan-Houston) J.C. Lohr, 738 Campbell Dr., Belpre, OH 45714 (614) 423-7373

USS Swearer DE 186 (Apr-Winter Haven, FL) Walt Roberge, 2100 Hwy. 92 W., Winter Haven, FL 33881 (813) 956-2700

USS Tringa ASR 16 (Apr-Kissimmee, FL) C.L. Carrigan, 1625 Ariana St., Box 49, Lakeland, FL 33803 (813) 686-4610

USS Wharton AP 7 (Apr-San Antonio, TX) George Howlett, 110 Central Ave., Malden, MA 02148 (617) 324-6121

Vireo MSC 205 (1957-59) (Mar-Lompoc, CA) Thomas Phillips, 4132 Constellation Rd., Rt 1, Lompoc, CA 93436 (805) 733-4225

VPB 18 (Apr-Jacksonville, FL) William Townsend, 1117 Kellam, Topeka, KS 66616 (913) 234-2008

VPB 213 (Apr-Jacksonville, FL) Norman Maffit, 14709 Carlos Cr. #70, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 (916) 354-2219

VPML/VP 8 (Apr-Jacksonville, FL) Beth Perry, 7926 Praver Dr. W., Jacksonville, FL 32217 (904) 733-5489

Army Air Forces

33rd Ftr. Grp. (WWII) (Apr-Ft. Walton Beach, FL) I.M. Beatty Jr., 18 Sherwood Rd. N.W., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 (904) 862-8891

49th Pur. Ftr. & Ftr. Interceptor Sq. (Apr-Tucson, AZ) Sheril Huff, 3200 Chetwood Dr., Del City, OK 73115 (405) 677-2683

53rd Ftr. Grp., 13th, 15th Ftr. Sqdns. (WWII) (Apr-Memphis, TN) Elmer Johnson, 1815 S.E. 6th Terr., Cape Coral, FL 33990 (813) 574-4044

467th Service Sq. (Mar-Atlanta) Henry Eichholz, 62 Lenox Ave., Clifton, NJ 07012 (201) 779-0499

600th Air Engrs. (Apr-Fresno, CA) Ralph DiRedo, 6730 W. Shaw, Fresno, CA 93722 (209) 275-0467

848th Glide Maint. Sq. (WWII) (Apr-Lincoln, NE) Gordon Jensen, Rt. 1, Box 41, Springfield, MN 56087 (507) 723-5804

896th Signal Co. Dep. AVN, 9th AF (Apr-New Orleans) Dick Diller, 426 E. Ben Oaks Dr., Severna Park, MD 21146 (301) 987-1638

1916th Ord. Amm. Co. (Apr-Dallas) Elwood Peters, 154 Dixon St., Mesquite, TX 75149 (214) 222-2843

Glider Pilot Trng. (Goodland, KS-1942) (June-Goodland, KS) Marilyn Cooper, P.O. Box 628, Goodland, KS 67735 (913) 899-7130

RAF Station Manston (May-Kent, Eng.) Milton Torres, 11200 S.W. 99th Ct., Miami, FL 33176 (305) 238-3342

Marines

1st Marine Div. Assn. (Edson's Raiders) (Feb-Quantico, VA) Edson's Raiders Assn., Box 980, Washington, DC 20044

2nd Bn., 26th Rgt., 3rd Mar. Div., H&S Co. (Khe Sanh-1968) (Apr-Tampa, FL) William Krueger, 7622 Highland St., Springfield, VA 22150

9th Defense Bn., 9th AAA Bn. (WWII) (Feb-Albany, NY) William Sorenson, 283 1st Ave., Stafford, CT 06497 (203) 378-0350

Marine Night Fighter Assn. (Apr-San Diego) Joseph Rawlins, 4182 Lodi Way, San Diego, CA 92117 (619) 273-2184

VMSB 343 (Apr-Greenville, NC) Glenn Kelley, 332 Lancelot Cr. N.E., Concord, NC 28025 (704) 786-1040

Air Force

8th Ftr. Bomb Wing, Attached Units (1949-1953) (Apr-San Antonio, TX) David Withers, 637 Moorside, San Antonio, TX 78239 (512) 655-7301

Santa Ana Army Air Base Wing (Mar-Costa Mesa, CA) Charlie Kiser, 407 Tustin Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 (714) 548-2177

Miscellaneous

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor (Apr-Louisville, KY) Ralph Levenberg, 2716 Eastshore Pl., Reno, NV 89509

Anzio Beachhead Vets (WWII) (Apr-Pensacola, FL) Allan Rossel, 52 Valley Rd., Port Washington, NY 11050 (516) 883-7121

N. Dak. Iwo Jima Vets Assn. (Feb-Mandan, ND) Leo Gray, Rt. 1, Box 110A, Hankinson, ND 58041 (701) 242-8284

Tiger Four Arty., Attached units (Yoke Force, China-WWII) (Apr-Omaha, NE) Gene Mundorff, Clay Center, NE 68933 (402) 762-3848

Vietnam Veterans (Jan-Ardmore, OK) Tom Walker, Box 2184, Ardmore, OK 73402 (405) 223-6193 NAVY

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Notice of proposed reunions will be published on a first-come, first-served basis providing we have no contact for your outfit. If we have a contact, the information will be forwarded to you for your convenience. Requests for inclusion must list the unit name, branch of service, contact name, address (including zip code) and American Legion membership number. Submit your request to: "Let's Get Together," THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Army

4th Missile Bn., 28th Arty. Curtis Geller, 712 Church St., Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 756-1623

8th Cav. Rgt., 2nd Bn., 1st Div., E Co. (1950-51) Richard Benedict, Rt 1, Box 227, Endicott, NY 13760 (607) 785-5066

16th Cav., Co. E, Trp. F (WWII) Thor Carlson, 134 89th Ave., Treasure Island, FL 33706

16th Mech. Cav. Sq. Frank Kozlowsky, 252 Bernard Dr., King of Prussia, PA 19406

52nd AAA Lt. 75MM Mbl. Bn. (Castle AFB, 1952-55) Darrell Dorman, 5005 Fairway Ln., Ponca City, OK 74604 (405) 762-4305

68th MP Co., Leghorn, Italy, 1953-54, USARFOR Sig. Sch. (Ansbach, Germany, 1953-54) Ray Andersen, Box 65, River Grove, IL 60171

76th F.A., 11th Cav. (Monterey, 1930's) Howard Palm, 7340 13th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55423

89th Signal Co., 89th Div. (Mid-Atlantic) George Graeff, 1117 Stage Coach Rd., Ocean View, NJ 08230

102nd Medical Bn., 27th Inf. Div. (WWII) V. Thiele, 735 McLellan Dr., Walton Hills, OH 44146

121st Evac. Hospital (sm) (Camp Polk, Ft. Benning, 1946-49) Dale Dexter, Box 554, Dillingham, AK 99576

196th Light Inf. Bde. (Vietnam) James Crum, 620 High St., Box 4706, Canal Fulton, OH 44614 (216) 854-5345

196th Ord. Depot Thomas Williams, 7543-B Somerset Bay, Indianapolis, IN 46240 (317) 255-8046

203rd F.A. Bn. Bill Cottingham, Rt. 1, Box 307, Big Cabin, OK 74332 (918) 782-3759

244th Combat Engrs. Paul Manafort, 45 Overhill Ave., New Britain, CT 06053 (203) 223-4760

245th CA AAA Gun Bn., 29th Sep. Bn. J.F. Carroll, 4 Cedar St., Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 887-3938

265th CA, HQ Felix Limares, 7818 Valrie Ln., Riverview, FL 33569

268th, 940th F.A. Bns. (WWII) Robert Hill, Box 12, Ellaville, GA 31806 (912) 937-2821

285th Engr. Bn. (ETO) George Morris, 8227 Country Club Dr., Brooksville, FL 33573

293rd Co. Georger Petropoulos, 1365 March St., Hermitage, PA 16148 (412) 342-6040

365th S/L Bn. (Sta. Martinez, CA) Herb Seaburn, 678 Grant St., Mt. Gilead, OH 43338 (419) 947-3450

412th MPEG Co. (1943-44) Bernard Merritt, 10 Hayward Ave., Norwich, NY 13815 (607) 336-8069

423rd Inf. Rgt., 106th Div. (WWII) George White Sr., Box 6768, Brentwood, MO 63144

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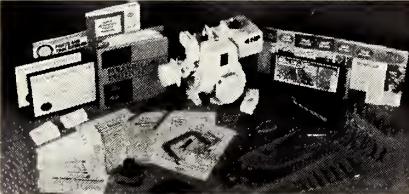
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740th AAA Bn., A Btry. (WWII) Ralph Smith, 1034 Ficklen Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22405 (703) 371-5922

741st Transp. Co. (Clear Lake, SD) Norval Anderson, Rt 1, Box 135, Gary, SD 57237 (605) 874-2826

778th Tk. Bn. (WWII) George Nicholson, 1321 E. Douglas St., Goshen, IN 46526 (219) 533-8576

832nd Signal Bn. (Australia, New Guinea-WWII) Bob Simpson, Rt. 1, Box 109, Forsyth, MO 65653 (417) 546-4823

858th Engr. AVN Bn. Officers Only (1943-45) Elzer Coates Jr., 124 Shirley Dr., Middletown, PA 17057 (717) 939-5387

895th MP AVN Co. (ETO) Pat Ramone, 2620 E. Robino Dr., Sherwood Pk. #1, Wilmington, DE 19808

3520 MAM Ord. (IE Shima 1945) Richard Sharp, 165 Sroat Ave., Freedom, PA 15042

3611th QM Truck Co. Cecil Valentine, 810 Cherry St., Genoa, OH 43430 (419) 855-3465

3768th QM Trk. Co. (1943-45) Donald Hammond, 7930 Raccoon Rd., Canfield, OH 44406 (216) 533-4780

A Co., 565th S.A.W. Bn. (Pacific Theatre-WWII) Marion Rollino, 432 S. Fordham, Aurora, IL 60056 (312) 892-2591

A Trp., 93rd Cav. Recon. Sq., 13th Arm'd Div. Rufus Clay, Rt. 1, Box 252A, Bogalusa, LA 70427

A C Btry., 470th AAA Bn. E.R. Keller, 715 E. Guilford St., Lebanon, PA 17042 (717) 273-2727

B Btry., 8/6 F.A., 1st Div. (Vietnam) Joe Compton, 1031 S. Blaine Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46221 (317) 632-3080

C Co., 172nd Engr. Combat Bn. (Camp Shelly-WWII) Clarence Ramey Jr., 151 Barrett Ln., Berea, KY 40403 (606) 986-1887

CCo., 1898th Engr. AVN Bn. (Elgin Field-WWII) Johnny Allen, 1330 N.W. 12th St., Amarillo, TX 79107 (806) 373-0587

Camp Baltimore (1944) Hugo Eichler, Box 263, Wildwood, FL 32785 (904) 748-6475

Co. C, Staff Bn., HQ & Serv. Cmd., East Cmd., Supreme Commander Allied Powers (Tokyo) Harold Harlow, 4046 N. Barnor Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317) 546-5963

HQ & HQ Co., Band Support Command, 2nd Arm'd Div. (Ft. Hood) Darrell Larson, 901 Tahona Dr., Wahpeton, ND 58075 (701) 642-4336

HQ Btry., 97th Inf. Div. Arty. (WWII) Jerry Boward, 2400 Jefferson Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 733-6860

Okinawa Engr. District Sec. Police (1955-57) Richard Tuttilla, 17 Hedgerow Dr., Morrisville, PA 19067 (215) 736-8118

Prov. Engr. Spec. Bde. Grp. (Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944) Leo Lerman, 43 W. Lake Shore Dr., Lake Carmel, NY 10512

Navy

Air Grp. 12, USS Randolph CV 15 (1945) Roy Bruce, 4123 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032 (703) 273-7827

CBMU 545 (New Guinea-WWII) Marion Wine, 26 Withey St. S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Co. 38-9 (San Diego, Trng. Sta.) Thomas Alley, Box 1228, Pocatello, ID 83204

Co. 420, Great Lakes Trng. Ctr. (Aug. 1961) Jerry Foster, Box 494, Waldo, OH 43356 (614) 726-2274

Mobile Boat Pool 1 (1950-52) James Pressley, 1318 Washington, Fredonia, KS 66736 (316) 378-2647

Navy Weather Central, ComSoPac Hq. (Noumea, New Caledonia-1944) James Chasm, 793 Poplar Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126 (312) 832-6623

NTC Great Lakes Co. 1775 Camp Dewey (1942) Peter Alessi Jr., 32 Worcester Dr., Norwood, MA 02062

USS Abbot DD 629 Thomas Biggs, 2736 Hallmark Dr., Belmont, CA 94002 (415) 593-9015

USS Alchiba AKA 6 (1942-46) G. Cauley, Box 98, Tangerine, FL 32777

USS Bennington VF 1 Simpson Evans Jr., 7131 Riviera Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903 (501) 452-0297

USS Cole DD 155 Floyd Clawson, 976 Maplerow N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 453-4138

USS Colhoun DD 801 (WWII) John Monroe, 1238 Old Stage, Fallbrook, CA 92026 (619) 723-8920

USS Columbus CA 74 Gene Hickam, 879 45th Ave. N.E., Salem, OR 97301 (503) 364-9715

USS Conserver ARS 39 Albert Peck, 18022 136th Way, Sun City West, AZ 85375 (602) 584-7683

USS Ellis DD 154 James Britt, 11221 Duluth Ave., Youngtown, AZ 85363

USS Execute AM 232 (WWII) Joseph Coffey, 23 Beechwood Terr., Matawan, NJ 07747 (201) 566-3586

USS Fechteler DE 157 Edward Elliott, 1235 Hiatt St., Indianapolis, IN 46221 (317) 631-9602

USS George E. Badger DD 196, APD 33 Edward MacDonald, 10 Quarley Rd., Boston, MA 02131

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VETERANS ADVISER

Do you have questions about your veterans' benefits? THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE answers those questions in this column. We regret that we cannot personally answer each query. Write to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, Veterans Adviser Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

diploma or an equivalency certificate and, if required, completion of the initial active duty for training.

Q. How can I obtain copies of my military service records that are not part of my VA claims file?

A. Military records are kept at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Contact your nearest VA regional office or any veterans' service organization for information on how to request copies of your military records.

Q. Does the VA have alcohol- and drug-dependency programs for veterans?

A. Yes. The VA operates both inpatient and outpatient clinics in most VA Medical Centers for honorably discharged veterans.

Q. Do the VA eligibility-assessment procedures (means tests) apply to veterans age 65 and older?

A. The eligibility-assessment procedures apply to all non-service-connected veterans regardless of age. Public Law 99-272 repealed a provision in The Veterans Omnibus Health Care Act of 1970 that allowed veterans 65 years of age or older to receive care in VA facilities regardless of income.

Q. I am a Korean War veteran filing for a service-connected disability rating. If I am rated service-connected, am I eligible for VA life insurance?

A. Any veteran released from active service after April 24, 1951, under other than dishonorable conditions, and who is awarded a service-connected disability, may be eligible for Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH). The insurance must be filed for within one year from the date of notice granting service connection for any disability based on a rating subsequent to discharge. The applicant must be in good health except for the service-connected disability.

RE-EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 40

multi-employer pension funds as well. This includes union pension plans, private employer-association plans and other plans where the single employer may no longer have exclusive control. More important, the trustees of the pension plan and its administrator have an equal responsibility to ensure that payments are credited.

While there are many immediate concerns that need to be addressed on return to work from military service, the issue of pension credit is a very important one for the long-term protection of the employee. It is important to address it with the employer as early as possible. Equally important are reading carefully the reports and statements of benefits provided by the employer and the pension fund, and attempting to get errors corrected as early as possible.

In Abernathy's case, he was entitled to credit for the period spent on military duty. Many other service people also may not have received that credit.

Veterans who believe they have not been correctly credited with pension and seniority rights may contact any state Veterans Employment and Training Service office.

Our concern for all veterans is that they receive the full measure of entitlement under the law for their military service. We stand ready to help. □

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually an eyewitness statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search for Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Officers. Please contact CID (number). The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

B Co., 17th Bn., 11th Bn., B Co., 50th MP Bn. Joseph E. Roberson Sr. needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Camp Wheeler in 1945, he suffered gas poisoning and was hospitalized, later while in Luzon, PI, he suffered from high fever and weight loss. Contact CID 1118

3581st Trc-QM Joseph Addison needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Kobe, Japan in March 1946, he was hospitalized for a nervous condition after a shooting incident. Contact CID 1130

16th & 24th Engrs. Dale R. Mills needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Ft. Hood in May/July 1953, he suffered a nervous condition and mental illness. Contact CID 1131

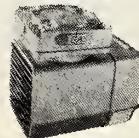
Love 3rd Bn., 351st Inf. Rgt. Jack Joseph Blume needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at Trieste, Italy in 1949-50, he was treated for a severe fungus infection of both feet necessitating treatment on at least three occasions. Contact CID 1132

74th Combat Engrs. Duane A. Hoffman needs witnesses to verify a claim that while stationed at North of Seoul, Korea in April 1953, he slipped and fell while carrying logs injuring his lower back. Contact CID 1133

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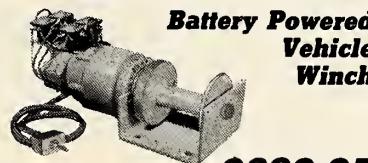
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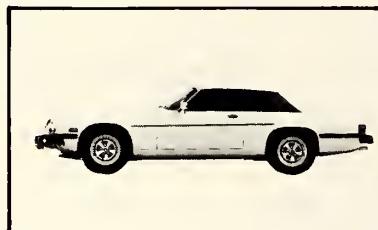
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BIG BUSINESS

Continued from page 29

loyalty means less and less, especially among some of Wall Street's most aggressive people.

"Where we saw in the '60s the notion of public service, in the '80s, money is the thing," said Harvard Business School Professor Samuel Hayes III. And the sums are indeed considerable. For advising a client during a few weeks of hot dealing, a small team of investment bankers can pull in \$10 million or more in fees.

The color of this money leads a few investment bankers to pull such tricks as putting clients into play — that is, making an innocent company an acquisition target. For example, a banker might falsely tell a corporation that raiders are planning a move against it, then offer defensive services. With a rattled company on one side, the investment counselor hunts for a real takeover group, making the lie come true. As one informed source said, "They sometimes take a healthy patient who walks in and turn him into a cadaver."

Although such malfeasance is part of the restructuring game, it's not the major cause of the economic change. To use a medical term, the slipshod behavior is an "opportunistic infection."

What this means to the health of American business as a whole is not yet clear. There are winners and losers in restructuring; there are solid arguments for and against it. Stopping a takeover attempt, for example, holds a company together. But when they must purchase their company's own stock to stop what one Fortune 500 company's CEO claimed is "economic terrorism," executives have fewer resources to put into research and development, new plants and improved equipment.

Paying greenmail to raiders or issuing junk bonds at high interest rates to fund acquisitions creates an enormous debt load. Some corporations can profitably sell or use the acquired company's assets, more than covering their debt load. Others risk trouble if interest rates soar or the economy slumps.

However, supporters of restructuring said they believe that management-fat corporations aren't serving their shareholders and don't deserve to employ protective measures such as greenmail — payments to a potential raider who has gathered enough stock to nearly win control of a company. The

greenmailed company pays the raider a premium price for his holdings, and management jobs are saved. Regular shareholders get nothing, except for holdings in a company that has more debt and lower market value.

This happened last year, when Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. gave Sir James Goldsmith an estimated \$90 million greenmail profit while also paying Goldsmith's investment bankers and attorneys \$30 million. Revlon Inc. picked up an estimated \$40 million trading profit from Gillette Co. under similar circumstances. Gillette's other stockholders were nicked, scalped and razor-burned; after the payments, their stock dropped 20 points, from the mid-\$60s to the mid-\$40s. And General Motors Corp. executives, tired of being publicly criticized by major owner Ross Perot, got rid of him by paying \$743 million for his GM shares — double their market value.

Such payments leave companies open to legitimate charges that some entrenched managers care more about perks and position than about their companies or stockholders. Then again, few individuals — from CEOs to shop stewards — willingly give up good jobs. Economic forces are colliding with human nature.

Congress' previous attempts to stop greenmail payments have failed, al-

though Sen. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio has promised to introduce a new bill on the matter.

"A great many of us in Congress see the Ivan Boesky insider-trading scandal and Sir James Goldsmith's aborted pursuit of Goodyear as the last straws," said Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania. "There is certain to be a flood of Wall Street-reform legislation, and some of it is bound to become law."

Famed corporate raider T. Boone Pickens argued that lawmakers shouldn't confuse insider trading with normal takeover activity — which, he maintained, is healthy. The restructuring process can be likened to a diet-and-exercise program, he said. It's painful and unpleasant, but it's the only way to get lean and strong enough to fight foreign competition.

However, restructuring may create instability to the point where long-term labor contracts are almost out of the question. Companies may have new owners or be out of business before copies of a labor pact can be circulated.

While restructuring may enrich a few people, it obviously harms many others — white-collar employees, managers and blue-collar workers alike. Some survivors of restructuring can't help but feel alienated and cynical — which by far may be the most damaging upshot of this turbulent period. □

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Catherine Bartelbort, Thomas N. Gregg, Anthony Kaspasowitz, Robert C. Martell, Richard Splain (1987) Post 136, Arroyo Grande, CA

Richard V. Paschal (1979), Mario Battista (1984), Gene B. Bosben, William F. Franzen (1986) Post 79, New Port Richey, FL

Paul C. Ryan (1987) Post 183, Fern Park, FL

Andrew Knopic (1987) Post 20, Crown Point, IN

James P. Brouillette, Joseph R. Brouillette, Donald F. Carroll, Thomas R. McConnell, Kenneth J. Messman, Paul C. Muller, Joseph H. Schroeder, Vincent L. Schwartz, Eileen Schwartz, Leonard W. Stambaugh, Howard J. Windler (1986) Post 57, Fowler, IN br John J. Dowd (1982), James A. Condon, William F. McCarthy, Eugene E. Troy (1985), John F. Ashe, Al Drega, John P. Fitzgibbon (1987), Post 124, Westfield, MA

Kenneth H. Dolloff (1987) Post 76, Scarborough, ME

Gary Sammons, Joseph Schiaffo, Alfred Schloff (1985), John Dingell (1987), Post 319, Ecorse, MI

Harlowe Hendrickson (1987) Post 303, Fridley, MN

Charles M. O'Conner, LaVerne W. Proefrock, Lloyd N. Robins, Warren E. Schrier, Peter Sivic, Ernest H. Sonnen, Henry J. Stegmeier, Donald L. Stober, John Swiston, Richard E. Westra, Wilfred W. Yean, Raymond J. Young (1987), Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

Barry R. Young (1985), Dale A. Fishback, Jack B. Jones, Charles F. Miller, Robert Moore Jr., Amos T. Radel, Edwin Vollmer (1987), Post 530, Cincinnati, OH

Dudley Sanders (1987) Post 166, Gleason, TN

David Buchanan Jr., Nolan S. Cutler Jr., Charles P. Powell Jr., Warren J. Price (1987), Post 25, Newport News, VA

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LONELINESS

Continued from page 35

among those who lived on Nob Hill.

For some people, loneliness has become chronic. It may have started as early as childhood — divorce of parents may have triggered it. If it lingers for a couple of years, the sufferer may need therapy to keep it from being debilitating. But for most of us, loneliness is like a headache — not disabling, but irritating.

Loneliness seems to thrive during life's transition periods. Adolescence can be the most desolate time of all. Social scientists believe that the mounting rate of suicides among teen-agers may be a grim reminder of the intensity of their feelings of aloneness.

Surprisingly, the elderly may be better off than has been generally thought. "Older people become more self-sufficient," commented Salt Lake City psychologist Ann Gerson. "They have a better idea than younger people what to expect from relationships."

At high risk among the elderly, though, are widowers who live alone. Their wives had cooked for them, managed their affairs and made social contacts for them. Left alone, they are lost and lonely, and many are unable to cope with their changed lives.

Louise Bernikow, author of the recent book, *Alone in America*, crisscrossed the country to interview hundreds of people about loneliness. She said she believed that men may be less subject to loneliness because they've been encouraged to value satisfying working lives over personal lives. But workaholism has its own pitfalls. "The exchange is never complete," she said. "Some powerful men are surrounded by people but are still unhappy. They wonder, 'Is this all there is?'"

And when men are separated from their work, they feel profound emptiness. "Of all the places I visited," Bernikow said in a *Newsweek* interview, "the area south of Pittsburgh was where people seemed most lonely. The steel mills were the connecting points in their lives, and they lost them. Many retreated into horrendous isolation. They stayed home, watched TV, drank beer... family life fell apart under the stress."

But if Bernikow uncovered "a culture permeated with loneliness," she also encountered heartening attempts to come to grips with the problem and make peace with being alone. "The real

pioneering activity," she reported, "is going on among seniors." In Miami Beach, for instance, she found a senior-citizens' orchestra, some of its members in their 80s. One told her, "This orchestra keeps me alive."

As might be expected, a problem so pervasive has led to a billion-dollar "loneliness industry" — video dating, singles bars, mating ads, self-help books, etc. — to meet lonely people's desire to do something about their condition. Most such solutions, however, are disappointing.

"Going out solely to meet people," said Chicago psychologist Carin Rubenstein, "is unnatural and frustrating. The better idea is to make meeting people a secondary goal. Join clubs, volunteer, do anything where you'll be involved. Become part of something bigger than yourself. Sing in a chorus, fight for a cause, be swept along on the enthusiasm of the group."

Bernikow discovered that in Seattle it is considered to be a civic virtue to know about cardiac arrest; nearly 40 percent of its citizens know what to do in case of a heart attack. As a result, Seattle has the highest recovery rate in the country. "This may be the antithesis of loneliness," she wrote. "People think it important to care for one another."

The best way to cure loneliness, said Weiss, is to feel better about yourself, to be in control of your life. He admitted that this may be easier said than done, but added, "There are people who are isolated yet don't report feeling lonely. People who have high self-esteem tolerate emotional isolation better."

Loneliness often abates when one realizes that it's possible to cope alone. Today, society attaches little stigma to being alone. Those who are lonely, miserable and longing to travel will find that airlines sell single seats, cruise ships have single cabins and the planet is there for each of us to explore. Along the way, friendships may be cemented, and loneliness may ebb.

Albert Cain, professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, said he believed that solitude may even be fruitful at times. "One should not assume that loneliness is automatically and intrinsically pathological and damaging," he said, "since it also can be used as a time of redress, resilience and strengthening of internal resources."

It might actually be unwise to try to eliminate loneliness, which one psychologist called "the common cold of psychopathology." He noted, "Loneliness is like physical pain. It's a useful warning signal. It warns you that some important need is going unfulfilled." □

YES, SANTA

Continued from page 30

"Is there a Santa Claus?"

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"Do you remember how Peter Pan once asked us to show our belief in fairies? You will of course do it a little differently, but you will each understand how. So, like Peter, I say, 'Show you believe; please show you do,' and I shall always be gratefully yours, Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas."

Full of years, honors and warm memories, Virginia died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81.

Her father, the doctor who had complete faith in *The New York Sun*, served as a police surgeon in New York until 1932. A highly respected neurologist and diagnostician, he died in 1937 at the age of 74.

Francis P. Church, whose gentle response to a child's question created an American classic, died in 1906 at the age of 67. Surprisingly, it was not until after his death that he became known as the author of the beloved editorial.

The New York Sun began to die a few years later. By 1925 only a shadow of its greatness remained. After a series of mergers, the combination of papers that included the *Sun*, crippled by high production costs and strikes, died in 1967.

And Santa Claus?

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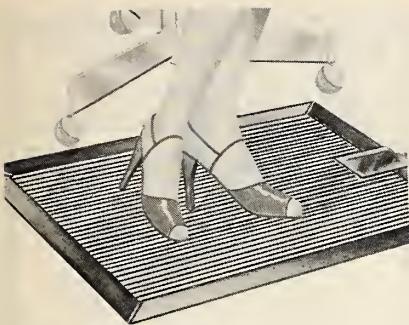
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Continued from page 45

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128th NCB (P) Swing Band (Guam, 1944-45) Arnie Migliaccio, 161-16 85th St., Howard Beach, NY 11414 (718) 641-6982

National Order of Battlefield Commissions Joseph Schwartz, 923 E. Garfield Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 562-5890

Stalag Luft 7-A Germany (Landshut) Bernard Chuba, 219 E. Clark St., Earlington, KY 42410 (502) 383-2360

TAPS

Taps Notices mention, whenever possible, those Legionnaires who have held high national or department office in the Legion or the U.S. government, or who have attained other forms of national prominence.

Clinton H. Baldwin, St. Louis Caucus, American Legion Founders Society.

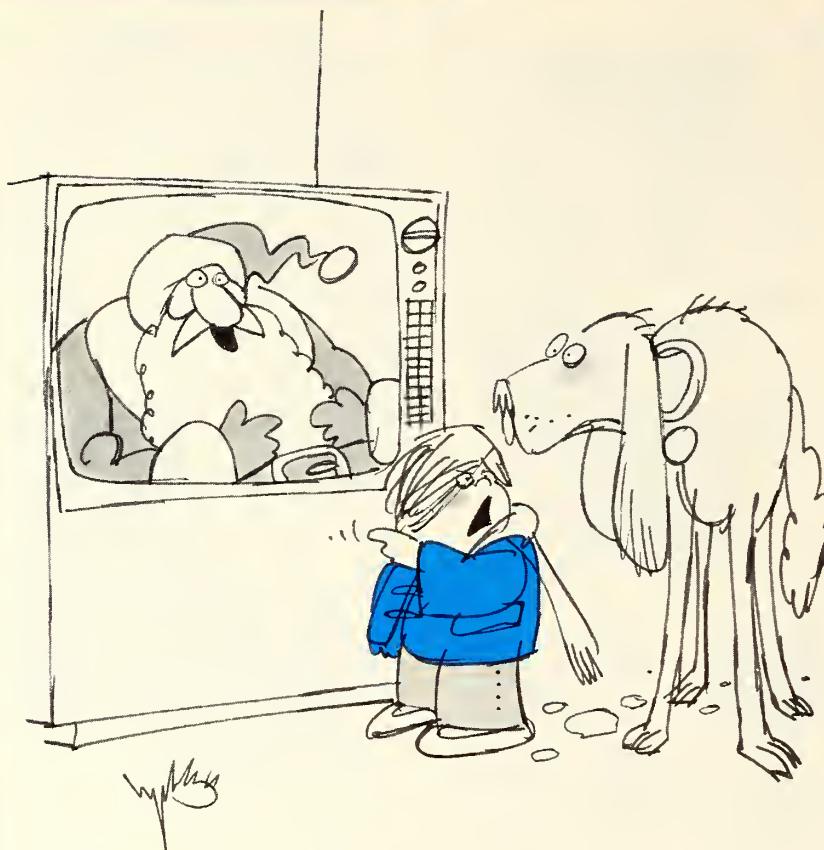
Frank M. Bowen, American Legion Founders Society.

Gerard P. Nolin, Canada Department Commander (1960-61), Department Vice Commander (1959-60).

John F. Reese, Paris Caucus, American Legion Founders Society.

Billy R. Wickens, MI Department Commander (1953-54).

PARTING SHOTS



"He'll be carrying a bag...don't mistake him for the mailman!"

Plums Aweigh

An angry Mrs. Jones called her grocer and said, "I sent my little boy to you for two pounds of plums, and you gave him only a pound and a half."

The grocer replied, "My scales are correct, madam. Have you weighed your little boy?"

—Martha J. Beckman

Trading Places

A woman waiting at the living-room door, ready to go to church, had her arms full of coats. Four children stood at her side. As her husband came down the stairs, she handed him the coats and said, "This time, you put on the children's coats, and I'll go out and honk the horn."

—Louise Marty

Thick-skinned

First cowboy: "The sheriff of this county is really tough. He wears a silver star pinned to his chest."

Second cowboy: "Doesn't sound so tough to me."

First cowboy: "Without a shirt."

—Mary Eyged

Gang Of One

The police sent out photos of an escaped convict in six different poses. A few days later, they received the following wire from a small-town constable: "Have captured five of them and am on the trail of the sixth."

—Bobbie Mae Cooley

Voice Of Experience

The new grade-school teacher asked her class, "Cleanliness is next to what?"

One boy quickly answered, "Impossible."

—Thomas La Mance

Grooming For War

Noted in weddings column in the local newspaper: "This is the third marriage for the groom. He also has been through World War II."

—Oliver E. Frazier

Above Par

Maybe one reason George Washington never told a lie was because golf wasn't played in his day.

—Homer Phillips

Season's Gradings

Just before Christmas, a college sophomore turned in a blank exam paper, across which he had scrawled: "Only God knows the answers to all these questions. Merry Christmas!"

His professor's reply, written across the top of the paper: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year!"

—Oscar Thornbuckle

Health Report

A college student wrote this note: "Dear Dad, I haven't heard from you in a month. Why not drop a check in the mail so I'll know that you're OK?"

—Roberta Inman

Fisherman's Patience

A customer had been waiting for his dinner for a long time when the waiter finally appeared and said, "Your fish will be ready in a minute or two, sir."

"What kind of bait are you using?" the diner asked.

—Chip Arthur

Coining A Phrase

The first-grade teacher asked the class whether anyone knew who Susan B. Anthony was. "I do," answered one youngster. "She was the first woman sufferer."

—Paul Short



"After last year, you'd better get yourself a hearing aid."

AMERICAN LEGION AMERICAN LEGION AMERICA

Jackets

Jackets

Jackets

A



B



C

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B CONTINENTAL TAN JACKET. Lighter weight version of corduroy jacket. Comfortable blend of polyester and cotton. Knit cuffs on sleeves and waist. Color may vary slightly from picture. Add \$4 for XXL. AMERICAN LEGION embroidered in gold on left chest.
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C STYLISH POPLIN JACKET. Royal Blue contrast piping emphasizes the shoulders and matches the collar, cuff and waistband on this contemporary jacket. 65% polyester/35% cotton. Add \$5 for XXL.
No. 70325 \$29.95

D



E



F



D GRAND NATIONAL RACING JACKET. 100% Nylon Cire shell, nylon lining, knit waistband and cuffs, full zipper front; two slash pockets with zipper closure; racing collar with D-ring throat latch and knit backing; fully sewn sleeve and chest striping with special contrast insert stripe on right chest and right sleeve. Add \$5 for XXL.
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E ROYAL BLUE JACKET. Heavy oxford nylon with poly-fibre quilted lining. Set in sleeves. Knit collar and cuffs with gold trim. Add \$5 for XXL.
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F POPLIN JACKET. Weatherproof cotton/polyester blend with button collar and cuff. This jacket now available in XXL and XXXL and in Talls L, XL, and XXL. Add \$3 per jacket for these special sizes.
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